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weekly

Saturday Jan 16
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New series

TARGET SPAIN!

No.1
Cyrille Regis



PLUS

GLENN HODDLE

Kevin Beattie

John Burridge

Micky Droy





Left: England's regular striker Paul Mariner has been troubled by injury this season.

Below: Aston Villa's Peter Withe — currently second choice to Paul Mariner for the England centre forward position.

No1

Saturday sees the all-important draw for the biggest showpiece in soccer — the World Cup Finals.

And to coincide with the event, Match Weekly brings you the first in a fascinating new series on the young stars bidding to earn a place in those finals.

REGIS INTO

ENGLAND'S goal-starved attack is under siege from West Brom's explosive striker Cyrille Regis.

The England 'B' international is staking his claim for a World Cup place in the best possible way — by scoring goals. England have sadly lacked fire power up front. In their last eight games they've scored just six times with three of those goals coming from midfield men.

And of England's current first choice strikers, only skipper Kevin Keegan is scoring goals regularly in the First Division this season.

Ipswich striker Paul Mariner, who hit the winner in the vital qualifier against Hungary, is Keegan's regular partner. But he's struggled against a stomach strain all season.

His stand-in, Peter Withe, has failed to recapture the form which helped Aston Villa take the League Championship last season so manager Ron Greenwood faces a striker crisis.

And the man who could just solve England's scoring dilemma is 23-year-old Cyrille.

At the start of the New Year, he stood joint top of the First Division goalscoring charts alongside Kevin Keegan with 18 goals... and he's still going strong.

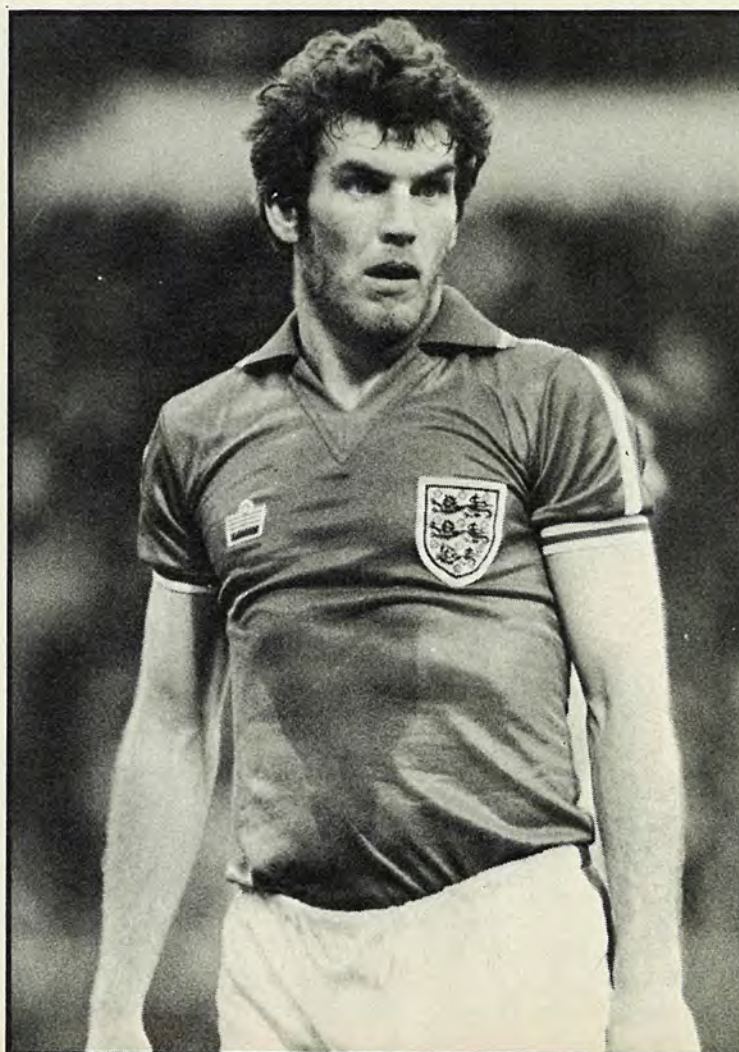
Not surprisingly then, Cyrille admits: "I'm really pleased with my form. I've added the consistency to my game that's been lacking in the past couple of years.

"After all the early season upheavals at The Hawthorns, we've now got a settled side and are playing as a team.

"The goals are going in and that's given me confidence. If the goals dry up, the doubts set in. Earlier this season, I was creating the chances but not scoring.

"Now confidence within the team is sky high and it's easier to put the chances away," said Cyrille, who has scored two hat-tricks already this season, against Swansea and Birmingham.

But while his scoring exploits have pushed him under the World Cup microscope, he's not getting



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FRONT COVER: Scotland star and new
Liverpool skipper Graeme Souness,
who believes his club are still in with a
chance for the championship — see his
column on pages 22 and 23.

CYRILLE REGIS

Each week, we'll be bringing you an in-depth article on one of those players knocking on the door of the England, Scotland and Northern Ireland squads.

To kick the series off, Match writer Anthony Hawkswell spoke to big Cyrille Regis — the man who this season has let his goals do most of the talking...



ROARS THE RECKONING

carried away with thoughts of Spain.

"It would be a dream come true if I was picked to go to Spain but I'm not thinking about that yet. It's a long way off.

"All I can do is to keep scoring for Albion. They are my stage and I've got to prove I'm worth a chance.

"It's going to be very hard to break into the England set-up because there are lots of good strikers around with full international experience. My immediate target is to play well for Albion and help them win something this season."

Cyrille joined West Brom from non-League Hayes and Harlington in August 1977 when he was 19 and had given up hope of a career in the game.

Less than two years later, he picked up the first of his five England Under-21 caps when he made his debut against Denmark.

Last season, more international honours came his way and he was capped at England 'B' level in friendlies against the USA and Australia. But by his own admission, he failed to impress.

"I wasn't outstanding. I had an average game on both occasions. It takes time getting used to playing with different people and so it's difficult to settle to your normal game."

Cyrille's normal game is based on his power and strength in the air — a factor many people believe England need to unsettle the continentals in Spain.

"I love running at defenders and, along with my heading ability, I would say those are my strengths."

Following the arrival of new manager Ronnie Allen, West Brom lost midfield pair Bryan Robson and Remi Moses to Manchester United amid rumblings of player discontent within the midlands club.

And after winning just two of their opening seven League games and being dumped straight out of the UEFA Cup, it looked as though Albion were doomed to struggle.

But the new manager has bought players of the calibre of Andy King, Martin Jol and Clive Whitehead to bolster the flagging side and Albion have raced to a respectable First Division placing. "I knew we would," says Cyrille.



DON'T miss next week's Match Weekly for full details of the draw for the World Cup Finals together with the instant reactions of some of the home country stars who will be making the trip — including the views of England skipper Kevin Keegan.

And we'll be turning the spotlight on another player in our 'Target Spain' series.

KEEP THE MONEY!

THE big freeze hit Derby's plans to parade Liverpool defender Richard Money with a view to a £200,000 transfer.

But Liverpool manager Bob Paisley came to the club's rescue by allowing the former Fulham defender to stay on loan for a second month.

But one First Division defender who won't be changing clubs just yet is Leeds' Keith Parkinson.

He has returned to Elland Road after a month on loan to Fourth Division Hull.

TO THE FOUR!

DID you know that Ipswich Town are the only Football League club to have had three players who have all scored four times in a European Cup tie? Trevor

Whymark did so twice; Ray Crawford actually hit five against Floriana in season 1962-63; and John Wark scored four in a UEFA Cup game last season.

HOOKED on West Ham — that's their new signing Francois Van Der Elst.

The Dutch international joined 'The Hammers' in a £400,000 deal and then revealed that the First Division newcomers were his favourite team.

Interested

"I used to watch them on Belgian television and I told my wife that they were the only English club I'd sign for. I couldn't wait to join them when I heard they were interested."



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HOOKED ON HAMMERS



INJURY IS A MENACE

DENNIS Tueart's Indian summer with Manchester City has been dashed by a serious leg injury.

The 32-year-old striker faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines after rupturing a tendon during the 3-2 home defeat by one of his former clubs, Sunderland.

At first there were fears about his future, but specialists have assured him

that he will play again. It was cruel luck for the former England international because, at the time of the injury, he was City's top scorer with 11 goals and was playing his best soccer for some years.

FOR DENNIS

Billy's reward



BILLY Bingham (left), having guided Northern Ireland to the World Cup Finals for the first time since 1958, has been awarded a new three-year contract.

The contract starts at the end of next month.

Steve just can't score!

THEY'LL surely award the freedom of Bolton to full back Steve Whitworth when he opens his goal account in League football.

After more than 450 League appearances with Leicester,

Sunderland and Bolton, the full back is yet to chalk up a goal.

No other current outfield player has figured in so many matches without having scored a goal.

Liverpool spoilsports!

LIVERPOOL put a damper on Rangers' gala night opening of their £10 million stadium by recording a 2-0 victory with goals from Kenny Dalglish (right) and Ronnie Whelan. A crowd of 40,000 watched the match at Ibrox.



NOW CITY MAY BE GOING PLASTIC

BRISTOL City may join the plastic pitch revolution by installing a synthetic surface at their Ashton Gate ground in time for the start of the new season. City are to share their ground with Bristol Rovers.

TWO OF A KIND!

DO Manchester City's Phil Boyer and Bolton's Brian Kidd ever feel they were born under the same star? Both are ex-England strikers in their thirties, both have hit well over 100 Football League goals and both are with Lancashire clubs. Another tie-up: Phil is the only player ever sent off three times in the League Cup and Brian the only one dismissed three times in the F.A. Cup!

BOB-SLAY

BIG Bob Lee, virtually given away by Bristol Rovers in the summer, returned to Eastville with a vengeance with Third Division promotion chasers, Carlisle.

The former Sunderland and Leicester striker, sold for just £11,000, duly snapped up Carlisle's winning goal.

And it was a goal that took Bob Stokoe's side to the top of the table.

OWZAT!

Now Alan can put cricket first

ALAN Ramage — his football career cut short by injury — can now concentrate full time on his other love.

Damaged knee ligaments following Achilles tendon trouble plus a cartilage operation brought Alan's career with Derby to a premature end.

But he's very optimistic that he can carry on playing cricket . . . and hopeful of going right to the top.

Alan (24) opens the bowling for Yorkshire and he's set his sights on impressing enough to earn England honours.

He was limited to just 34 games in a Derby shirt following his £150,000 transfer from Middlesbrough and he admits: "My stay at the Baseball Ground was a disaster."

Alan Ramage — in action for Derby (right) and Yorkshire (left). Now his soccer playing days are over.



Match Chat

Compiled by Melvyn Beck

Deehan shows his worth . . .

WEST BROM striker John Deehan (below) proved he would be a bargain at £200,000 when he scored four goals in a Norwich v Ipswich friendly. Deehan went to Norwich on loan because he couldn't command a regular first team place at the Hawthorns.



Kemp seeks goal touch

PLYMOUTH'S David Kemp hopes to recover his goalscoring touch while on loan to Third Division rivals Gillingham.

David, the country's second top scorer last season with 24 League goals, failed to score in the first nine games and hadn't been in the Plymouth side since the middle of October.

"I know I can score goals," says the former Carlisle and Crystal Palace striker.

Oh, brother!

ALLAN Clarke was with Fulham when they were relegated in 1967-68, brother Frank with Carlisle when they went down in 1974-75, Derek with Oxford when they descended in 1975-76, and Kelvin with Walsall when they suffered the drop in 1978-79. What a unique five-brother tie-up it would be now if Wayne should go down with Wolves!

ENGLAND GO DUTCH

ENGLAND are to meet Holland at Wembley on May 25 as part of their build-up to the World Cup Finals in Spain.

Holland, beaten finalists in the last two World Cups, were eliminated this time in the group where Belgium and France qualified.

It means that England will now have six internationals before the finals.

They include the three British Championship matches against Northern Ireland (February 23 at Wembley), Wales (away on April 27) and Scotland (away on May 29).

Apart from the Holland game, England visit France (March 24) and Finland (June 3) before the start of the World Cup Finals on June 13.

Swede goes to Stoke

STOKE have joined the Malmö for £80,000.

Continental train again to strengthen their First Division squad.

They have signed Swedish international midfielder player Robert Prytz from Ursem.

Martin's in charge

WALSALL joint manager Neil Martin has been put in charge of the Third Division side.

Striker Alan Buckley has retained his title as joint manager but will concentrate on the reserves.

CEC NEARS A RECORD

STRIKER Jack Leslie was with Plymouth Argyle for 14 seasons from 1921 to 1935 and that stands as the longest spell achieved by a black player at one club. But the record's in danger . . .

Black right-back Cec Podd has clocked up 12 seasons with Bradford City and looks good for a few more seasons yet.

Paul Stratton talks to one of football's finest servants and discovers he's lost none of his old 'never-say-die' attitude...

BEATTIE'S BEATEN



Grimsby's Trevor Whymark — scored the winning goal for Ipswich when Kevin Beattie made his debut for the club.

IPSWICH defender Kevin Beattie, his career wrecked by injury, revealed this week that he still hasn't given up hope of playing again.

After five operations on his troublesome right knee, the former England international has had to admit it's all over as far as playing top flight football is concerned.

But he told Match Weekly: "You never know what's round the corner. They might come up with some miracle cure or something.

"Either way, I'm sure I could still do a good job for somebody in some capacity.

"I've not given up hope of playing again."

Kevin has already bounced back more times than a boxer's punchball and refused to accept earlier medical advice that he should never again pull on an Ipswich shirt.

"I took no notice. Instead I just kept trying to beat it, but the more I tried, the worse it got.

"I'm still training at Ipswich and I could still get through a game, but I'm not the sort of player who can go in half-hearted — it's 100 per cent or nothing.

"If I had carried on, I could have found myself hobbling around on crutches in a few years time.

"Although I've known for some time that my Portman Road playing days may be over, it was still an indescribable feeling when I made the decision to quit."

At the time we spoke, 28-year-old Kevin

had received no offers of a new role at Portman Road, but he said: "I still have 18 months of my Ipswich contract to run, so I've got time to think things over.

"I'm open to offers and although I've got no coaching qualifications, I believe I have enough experience of top grade football to help someone."

Looking back on his Ipswich career, Kevin says he has no regrets about remaining a one-club man.

"There was never a time when I wanted to leave the club. I met my wife in the area, built my home here and I've been happy.

"Although there may have been others, I only know of one offer for me as an Ipswich player and that came from Coventry. The manager turned the bid down."

The past three seasons have brought nothing but frustration for the man affectionately nicknamed the 'Monster' by Ipswich team mates.

But there have been plenty of good times too, and Kevin singles out his debut for Ipswich and the club's FA Cup Final victory over Arsenal as two of the greatest moments of his football career.

"My Ipswich debut was against Manchester United at Old Trafford in front of about 62,000 fans.

"I was just 18-years-old at the time and the United line-up included people like George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law.

"We beat them 2-1 and I laid on the winning goal for Trevor Whymark.



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NOT YET

'They might come up with a miracle cure'

"It's funny because both George Burley and Paul Mariner made their Ipswich debuts at Old Trafford and both of them finished up on the winning side.

"The FA Cup Final of 1978 is another day I will never forget.

"A week before the match, I wasn't sure that I would play because of injury, but during the week I shook it off.

"I'll always remember the sight of our fans inside Wembley, lining up to meet the members of the Royal family, climbing those steps to collect my winner's medal and the bus ride through Ipswich the following day.

"There were so many people lining the streets. It was an incredible sight.

"As for the game against Arsenal, we strolled it really."

Of course his debut for England is another cherished memory, but his international career is one tinged with regret.

"I played left-back for England on each of the nine occasions I was capped. I never played in my proper position of left-half.

"Of course it was a marvellous thing to play for England and I'd have played ballboy if it had meant winning a cap, but at the same time it was disappointing not to play in my best position.

"Of course there were other times when I was selected for England and the knee played up. It was sickening because there's nothing like playing for your club on a Saturday and then playing for England the following Wednesday."

Of the players he's come up against in his career, Kevin singles out Manchester City's Trevor Francis and Southampton and England skipper Kevin Keegan as his two most difficult opponents.

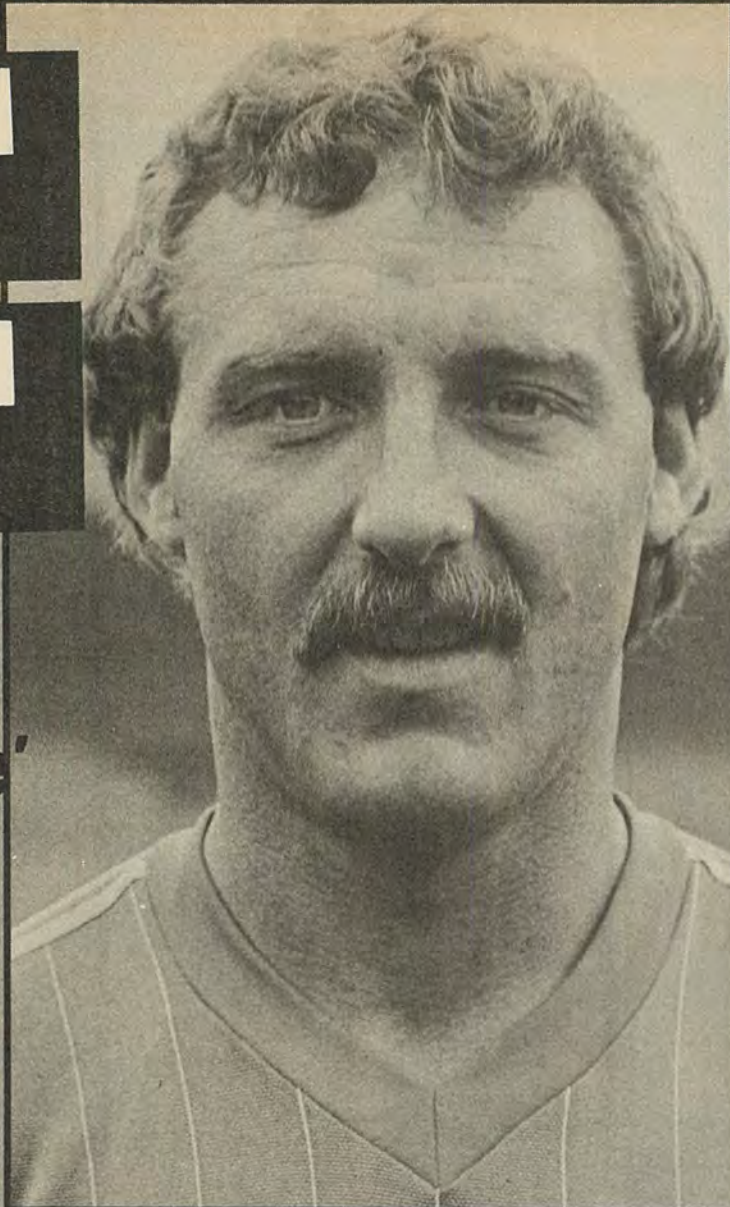
"Those two stand out. Both are very difficult to mark.

"And the same could be said of my Ipswich club mate Paul Mariner in practice matches!"

Despite the frustration of being sidelined, Kevin still goes along to all Ipswich Town's home matches.

"I'm a terrible spectator really. I'm making every tackle and kicking and heading every ball, but I'll keep cheering them on.

"And there's one game I'll make sure I don't miss this season — when Ipswich clinch the League title."



Above: Kevin Beattie — "I just kept trying to beat the injury but the more I tried, the worse it got."

Below: Kevin Keegan — one of the most difficult opponents Kevin Beattie has faced in his time at the top.



Aldershot

YEAR FORMED: 1926.

NICKNAME: 'Shots'.

ADDRESS: Recreation Ground, High Street, Aldershot.

TELEPHONE:

Aldershot 20211.

GROUND CAPACITY:

16,000.

RECORD ATTENDANCE:

19,138 v Carlisle, FA Cup

Fourth Round replay,

January 28, 1970.

RECORD RECEIPTS: £11,850

v Shrewsbury, FA Cup Fifth

Round, February 20, 1979.

LEAGUE RECORD: 1932

Elected to Division Three

(South); 1958-73 Division

Four; 1973-76 Division Three;

1976- Division Four.

HONOURS: None.

RECORD VICTORY: 8-1 v

Gateshead, Division Four,

September 13, 1958.

KNOW YOUR CLUB

RECORD DEFEAT: 0-9 v Bristol City, Division Three (South), December 28, 1946.

MOST LEAGUE POINTS: 57,

Division Four, 1978-79.

MOST LEAGUE GOALS: 83,

Division Four, 1963-64.

HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER

IN A SEASON: John Dung-

worth, 26, Division Four,

1978-79.

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN

TOTAL AGGREGATE: Jack

Howarth, 171, 1965-71 and

1972-77.

MOST CAPPED PLAYER:

Peter Scott, 1, (10) Northern

Ireland.

MOST LEAGUE APPEAR-

ANCES: Len Walker, 450,

1964-76.

RECORD TRANSFER FEE

RECEIVED: £100,000 from

Shrewsbury for John Dung-

worth, November 1979.

RECORD TRANSFER FEE

PAID: £54,000 to Portsmouth

for Colin Garwood, Feb-

ruary 1980.

MANAGERS SINCE THE

WAR: Bill McCracken, Gor-

don Clark, Harry Evans,

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COCKERELS THE



Above: Action from Spurs' Third Round clash with Arsenal as Tottenham's black striker Garth Crooks emerges from a mass of bodies to head goalwards.

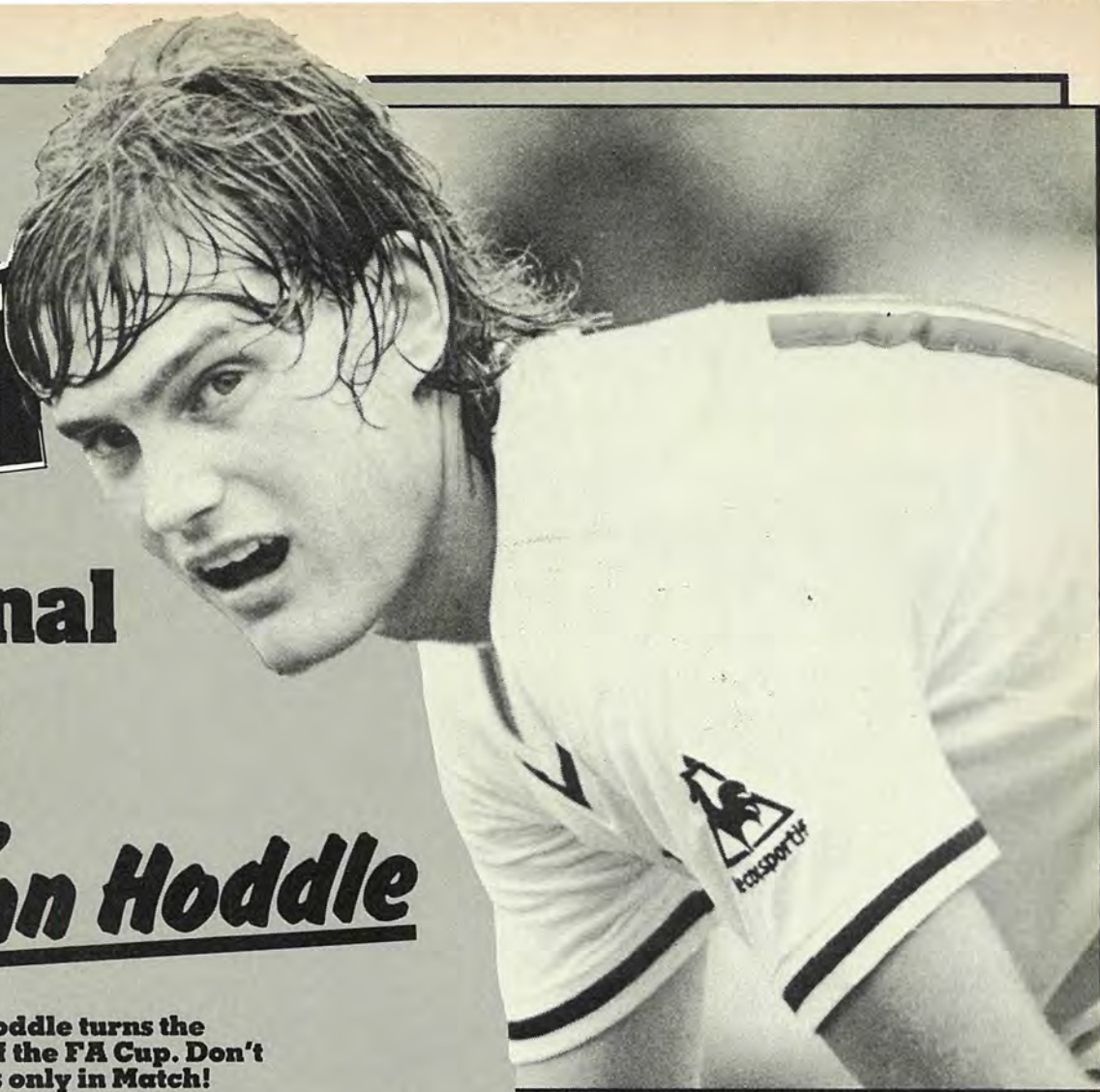
Right: The moment that had Spurs fans on their feet and Pat Jennings' head in his hands as the ball beats him for the Spurs winner.



RULE ROOST

Now Arsenal can take a back seat, says Glenn Hoddle

England midfielder Glenn Hoddle turns the spotlight on Spurs' defence of the FA Cup. Don't miss his regular column — it's only in Match!



THE tide has turned in North London.

Arsenal did have the upper hand and were widely regarded as London's top dogs — outside the Tottenham area, anyway!

But now it's Spurs who are riding on the crest of a wave.

We knocked Arsenal out of the League Cup last year and now we've put paid to their last chance of glory in a cup competition this season.

At the same time, we've safely crossed the first hurdle in our defence of the FA Cup.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you how pleased I was with our 1-0 Third Round victory over our rivals at White Hart Lane.

Of course it could be argued that our winning goal was lucky.

I could hardly believe the ball was in the back of the net myself.

When I saw Arsenal keeper Pat Jennings going down for Garth Crooks' shot, I half turned away ready to face up to Pat's kick.

It was only when I heard the roar of the Spurs fans that I turned back

to see the ball in the net.

I think the look of surprise on Garth's face at the time summed it all up.

But we had already hit the bar and the post so the luck wasn't going all our way.

In fact, I felt we could have gone in at half-time three, or even four, up.

I never thought we were in danger of losing the tie but we had to be on our guard in the second half because the Arsenal side is tailor-made for that kind of situation.

So often in the past, they have come back from being 1-0 down to force a replay or win the tie and we knew how desperate Arsenal were not to lose because it was their last chance of a cup run.

But we were well prepared.

The night before the game, we went away to our 'lucky' hotel near our Cheshunt training ground — the same one we stayed at before our FA Cup Final victory over Manchester City last year.

We weren't really sure what

team Arsenal would put out — not knowing whether Graham Rix would be fit to play and whether they would play John Hollins at right back.

But we knew Arsenal like to play the offside trap and we worked on beating that. We were determined to win.

Naturally, I was delighted to see our winning goal go in, but I felt sorry for Pat Jennings afterwards — especially because he had to be carried off injured.

His injury came when Garth Crooks broke through and Pat tried to tackle him. I was pleased to see our fans give him so much sympathy when he was carried off.

On a happier note, it was great to see Garth back to his sharpest.

He created a lot and had an awful lot created for him and he could have hit a hat-trick with a little more luck around goal.

I was pleased with my own performance too — I think it was the best I've played against Arsenal.

Overall, I believe we have a better side than our big rivals at the moment and we beat them with our football whereas, in some past encounters, it has turned into a bit of a kicking match.

It's such a big occasion whenever we play Arsenal — the atmosphere is always fantastic — that it didn't really hit me that we were back on the FA Cup trail until I was driving home in the car after the game.

Now we can look forward to another home tie — against Leeds in the Fourth Round.

We were lucky with the home draws last year when we lifted the Cup and, so far, our luck is holding out. I just hope it keeps up.

We were happy to draw Leeds. For my own part, I'd sooner be playing them rather than a Fourth Division side who would come to White Hart Lane with nothing to lose.

When we played Leeds in the League earlier this season up at Elland Road, we drew 0-0, but the conditions that day didn't make for a good game.

Leeds are a team who can play well on their day and I have tremendous respect for Eddie Gray.

I think we'll feel the pressure of being the holders more as the competition goes on but, as I've said, we're happy with the draw.

I wouldn't think West Ham are quite so happy at the thought of travelling to Watford in the next round.

The Second Division side's 1-0 victory over Manchester United was a great result for them although they are a well organised side under a good manager and, at home, they must be in with a chance of beating anyone.

The biggest shock of the Third Round had to be Wrexham's 3-1 win at Nottingham Forest and seeing all these First Division sides bite the dust suits us fine.

See you in a fortnight's time...

Glenn Hoddle



SUPERSUB!

VENISON ROASTS CITY

SUNDERLAND youngster Barry Venison gave his manager Alan Durban the best possible answer when he was dropped for the Division One game against title chasers Manchester City.

The manager brought his 17-year-old midfield player onto the field with just ten minutes to go and Division One strugglers Sunderland trailing 2-1.

Barry set up the equaliser for Gary Rowell and then stunned Maine Road with a sensational winner just two minutes from time to score his first ever League goal. "The equaliser was the more important goal," admits Barry (right), who had played 12 League games on the trot before being dropped for the City game.

But of his winner, he says: "I can remember Kevin Bond heading the ball out and it fell to my right foot just perfectly. I let fly and it rocketed into the net past Joe Corrigan.

"I was lucky it came to my right foot because if I'd have tried to hit



it with my left, the ball would probably have gone out of the ground," said Barry.

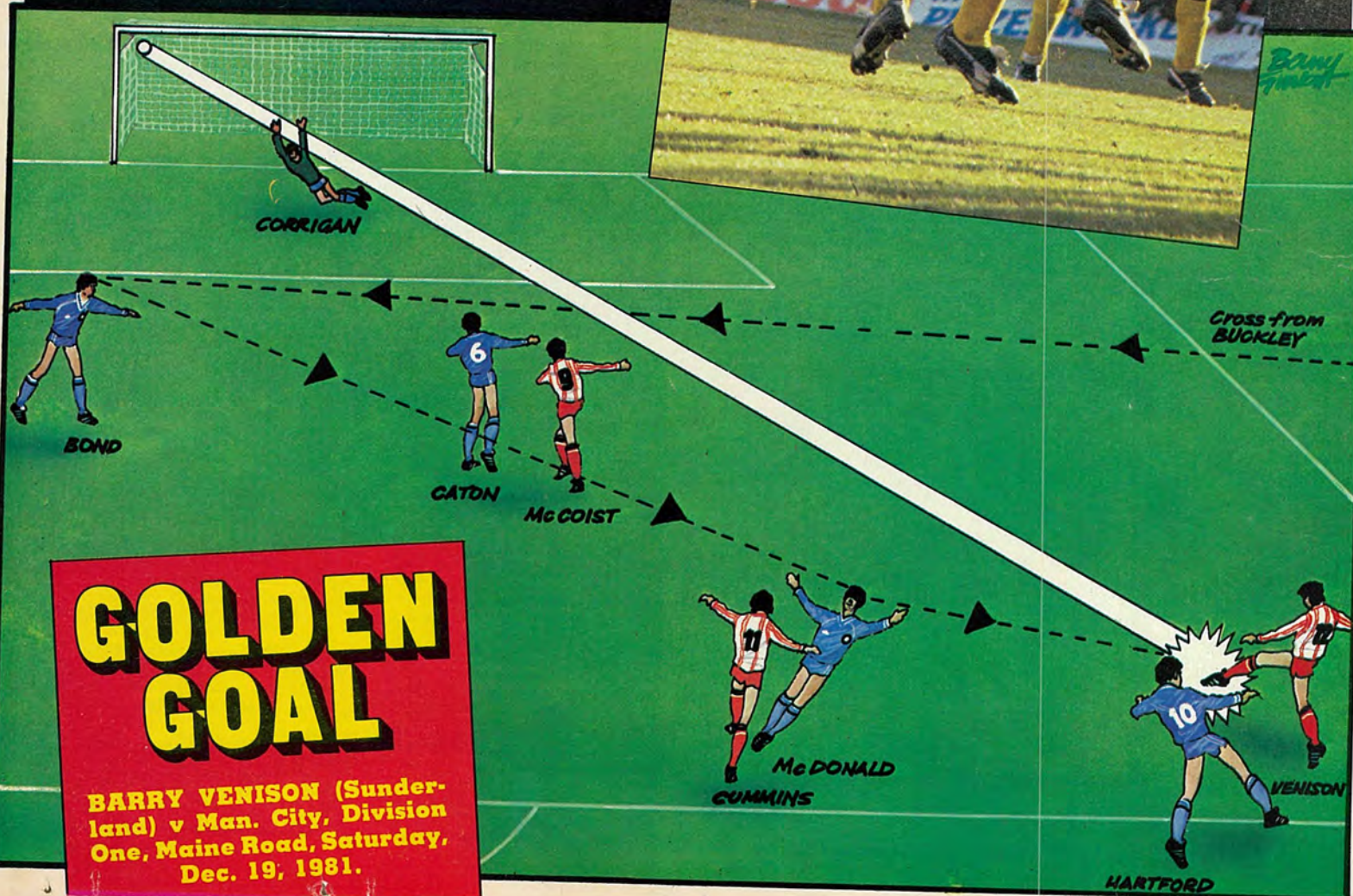
"It certainly was a day I'll never forget. It started with the disappointment of being on the substitute's bench and ended with the delight of scoring the winner.

"I'll have to go some to score a better goal," added Barry.



Barry Venison (left) in high flying action against Spurs earlier this season.

Photo: Inkerman Publications



GOLDEN GOAL

BARRY VENISON (Sunderland) v Man. City, Division One, Maine Road, Saturday, Dec. 19, 1981.

match
WEEKLY



TOMMY CATON MAN CITY

That was the week that was

Jan 16-
Jan 22

MATCH Weekly takes a fascinating look back at some of the important football events that took place this corresponding week in years gone by...

United splash out on Macari

Jan. 18, 1973.....

SCOTTISH international Lou Macari becomes new Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty's first big signing since he took charge at Old Trafford.

'The Doc' splashed out a Scottish record fee of £200,000 to take the tiny striker from Celtic.

United were second from bottom of the First Division and the newly-appointed manager saw Lou as the man to lead them out of trouble.

Docherty, who'd taken over as United boss just a month before, completed a double swoop on the same day by buying unknown Eire international Mick Martin from Bohemians. Mick is currently at Newcastle after a spell with West

Brom.

The duo brought Docherty's purchases to four in a month. He'd previously invested in Scottish international George Graham from Arsenal and centre-half Jim Holton from Shrewsbury.

His wheeling and dealing managed to save United from the drop that season, but they were relegated the following year.

Docherty's investment in Macari paid instant dividends because he scored on his debut against West Ham — two days after arriving from Celtic.

He earned United a valuable point in a 2-2 draw with West Ham in front of 50,000 fans at Old Trafford. United's other scorer that day was Bobby Charlton.



Scottish winger John Robertson. His penalty gave Nottingham Forest a 1-0 win over Liverpool and set them up for their third League Cup Final appearance in a row.

Mighty Magpies

Jan. 21, 1976.....

GLORY days for once-proud Newcastle. They beat Spurs 3-1 this week six years ago to reach the League Cup Final.

'The Magpies' — now struggling to keep up with the Second Division promotion chasers — beat the Londoners thanks to goals from Alan Gowling (now Bolton) Glen Keeley (Blackburn) and Geoff Nulty.

Manchester City booked their Final place the same day with a 4-0 win over Middlesbrough. Scorers for City were Ged Keegan (Oldham), Alan Oakes (Chester), Peter Barnes (Leeds) and Joe Royle (Norwich). The Maine Road outfit won the Final 2-1.

Nottingham Forest were also making the League Cup news this week in years gone by. On January 22, 1980, a John Robertson penalty gave them a 1-0 Semi-Final first leg lead over Liverpool.

Forest went on to draw the second leg 1-1 at Anfield and reach the League Cup Final for the third year in a row.

Wolves — eventual winners — went down in the first leg of their Semi-Final on the same night, 2-1 to Third Division Swindon.

ARSENAL IN CUP SAGA

Jan. 22, 1980.....

ARSENAL ended one of the FA Cup's longest running marathons when they beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 in the Third Round.

It took the Gunners FIVE games to see off Jack Charlton's stubborn Wednesday, striker Frank Stapleton (now at Man. Utd) and defender Steve Gattin (Brighton) getting the goals in a 2-0 win.

The saga started at Hillsborough with a 1-1 draw. The replay at Highbury ended with the same result and the teams moved on to Leicester's Filbert Street for the

third replay.

That also finished 1-1 and the teams tried again a couple of days later only to end in a 2-2 deadlock. On January 17, it was 3-3 but — five days later Arsenal clinched it.

Terry Neill's side marched right to the Final at Wembley where they beat Manchester United 3-2 in one of the most thrilling finishes ever seen at Wembley.

A TEAM FOR SALE

Jan. 20, 1975.....

WREXHAM manager John Neal puts all his players up for transfer in a bid to save the club from financial ruin.

John, now in charge at Chelsea, took the drastic action because of the Third Division club's severe cash difficulties.

The manager commented: "Our situation is embarrassing and serious."

Bob's back with birthday goals

Jan. 18, 1975.....

YOU can't keep Swansea striker Bob Latchford out of the news.

This week seven years ago, the former England forward was in the

headlines when he celebrated his 24th birthday with two goals for Everton against his old club Birmingham.



Lou Macari broke the Scottish transfer record when he joined Manchester United from Celtic in January 1973.

Jan. 21, 1981.....

LEEDS and England's versatile star Paul Madeley announced his retirement from the game on January 21 last year.

Paul, who played 24 times for England, hung up his boots after making 534 League appearances in 17 years at Elland Road.



Left: Goalkeeper Petar Borota — one of the first to feel the sharpness of the manager's axe.

CHELSEA's Boxing Day victory over London rivals QPR made them only the second team this season to come away from Loftus Road with three points. Here, Micky Droy tells how they conquered Rangers' magic carpet pitch . . .



Above: Chelsea skipper Micky Droy is tackled by Tony Sealy on QPR's synthetic turf.

BLOOD AND THUNDER

CHELSEA have proved to the rest of the Second Division that QPR aren't invincible on their controversial synthetic turf.

But to become just the second team to win a League game at Loftus Road this season, the Chelsea players literally had to shed blood and suffer much pain.

Manager John Neal came up with the perfect answer to the new-style surface. He ordered his players to pretend it was grass and play their natural game.

"When teams go to Loftus Road they try to adapt to the new conditions. We didn't. Even though it was painful we played as if we were on grass," revealed Chelsea skipper and star of the win, Micky Droy.

"We watched a couple of recordings of QPR games at Loftus Road and noticed that the visitors gave them time and space. If you let QPR play on that surface, they'll beat you because they're more used to it.

"The manager told us to get stuck in and not to hang back. The tactics really took their players by surprise."

Micky admitted that the dressing room after the game wasn't a pretty sight. "There was a lot of blood about. I'm just thankful I only have to play there once a season.

"Where some of our players had slid into a tackle, they'd had the skin taken off their knees," said Micky, who finished the game with burns on both knees and on the top of his thigh.

"The burns cleared up quickly and there were no serious injuries, but I couldn't play my normal game on that surface every other week. I'd be cut to pieces."

Micky, who has played on the plastic grass in America, isn't a fan of football's latest innovation.

"I don't believe it encourages the skilful players any more than grass. The ball bounces all over the place. I certainly wouldn't like it at Stamford Bridge."

Chelsea's victory over QPR was their sixth game without defeat and pushed them into fifth place in the Second Division.

"It's just the right position to be in at this stage of the season," said Micky. "I'd like us to stay there until about the last month of the season."

"In previous years, we've started off well and then blown up around Christmas. After an indifferent start this time, we've settled down and we are playing quite well," said Micky.

"Except for leaders Luton, we've met all

the other top teams and, to be honest, I don't think we've got much to worry about.

"Luton are up unless something drastic happens and that means there's still two other promotion places up for grabs. I'm confident we can fill one of them."

"Since the new manager arrived, the whole atmosphere within the club has changed. It's much more stable and far happier."

"Last season, we played the same team every week even if three or four players had lost form."

"This time, the players know that if they don't produce the goods on the pitch then they'll be replaced. That's made competition for places very fierce."

One of the first players to feel the sharpness of John Neal's axe was Yugoslav international Petar Borota, who has been replaced by youth team keeper Steve Francis.

"He's one of the youngsters who've come in and done very well," said Micky. "I've been very impressed with him and Kevin Hales."

"Alan Mayes has taken a lot of stick from the crowd since he came here from Swindon and it's good to see him playing so well."

I AM a 13-year-old Liverpool supporter who would like a pen pal anywhere in the world who supports any English team.
Ann Roberts, 44 Heathcote Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

I AM a 16-year-old Luton Town fan and I would like a pen-friend who also supports them.
Andrew Chester, 221 Wood Lane, Partington, near Urmston, Manchester M31 4HY.

I AM a 13-year-old American boy who lives in Exeter. I would like a pen pal who supports any First Division club. I can exchange Exeter City programmes and information as well as American N.A.S.L. club programmes when I return to the States.
John Strong, 11 Michigan Way, Sylvania, Exeter, Devon EX4 5EU.

Pen pals

I AM a 20-year-old Nottingham Forest supporter and would like to correspond with a Forest fan aged between 18-24.
Kingsley Bazuaye, 24 Ezoti Street, Benin City, Bendel State, Nigeria.

I AM 16 years old and support Spurs, Man Utd, Fulham and Peterborough. I like Madness, Adam and the Ants and Police. I would like a pen pal aged between 15-18.
Denise Hamblett, 75 Pennington, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, Cambs.

I AM a keen Manchester United supporter from Sweden. I would like a pen pal who also supports United.
Klas Nygren, V. Klintvagen 6, 68100 Kristinehamn, Sweden.

I AM an 11-year-old Manchester United supporter and I would like a pen pal, aged between 10-12, who supports any team.
Boyd Marshall, 12 Snowdon Ct, Haverhill, Suffolk.

I AM an 11-year-old Glasgow Celtic supporter and would like to hear from another Celtic fan aged between 11-13.
Andrew McIlhargey, Craiglieth Cottage, Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire.

I AM an 18-year-old girl and I would like a pen pal of a similar age who supports Liverpool and likes other sports and music.
Susan King, 2 St Johns Farm Cottages, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1AW.

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JOHN BURRIDGE

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS

FULL NAME: John Burridge.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Workington/December 3, 1952.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5ft 11ins/13st 3lbs.
MARRIED: Yes, to Janet.
CHILDREN: Tom (3).
CAR: Granada 2.8.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Workington, Blackpool, Aston Villa, Southend, Crystal Palace.
CLUB NICKNAME: Leopard or Budgie.
WORST EVER INJURY: When I damaged my right shoulder in 1978.
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: Peter Shilton of Nottingham Forest for his dedication.
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: All the clubs I have played for!
FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Pele, for all the good publicity he has given football.
BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: Shilton, Armfield, Sansom, Todd, Wicks, Best, Nicholas, Wark, Robinson, Gray, Law.
ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: Shilton, Armfield, Beckenbauer, Alberto, Sansom, Garrincha, Pele, Charlton R., Rivelino, Best, Law.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Hillsborough.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN STADIUM AT WHICH YOU HAVE PLAYED: Olympic Stadium, Rome.
BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: Alan Mullery for Fulham against Leicester.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENTS: Andy Gray and Brian Little.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The match against Burnley in 1979 which saw Crystal Palace win promotion.
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Winning the League Cup with Aston Villa.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Leaving Crystal Palace and seeing them relegated.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Rugby and boxing.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Going out for a meal with Jan and playing with my son Tom.
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Losing at anything!
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: All sports programmes.
TV SHOW YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: Delia Smith's Farmhouse Kitchen.
FAVOURITE READING: Match Weekly.
FAVOURITE POP STAR: I like all music.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak.
FAVOURITE DRINK: Tea.
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: America.
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Sylvester Stallone.
BEST FILM SEEN IN PAST YEAR: Raiders of the Lost Ark.
BEST FRIEND: My wife Janet.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Terry Venables, Bob Stokoe, Harry Potts and Ron Saunders.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: Losing.
SUPERSTITIONS: None.
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Steak.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None.
PERSONAL AMBITION: To remain a winner.
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win as much as possible with Rangers.
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: I hope to stay in the game.
PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Peter Hucker, a goalkeeper at Rangers.
WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET: My next child.
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Sleep, eat and drink the game. Total dedication.

John Burridge



Watch out for Pierre!

LOOK out for the name Pierre Littbarski during the World Cup Finals in Spain.

He's one of the rising young West German stars who could become a household name during the tournament.

The 21-year-old Cologne striker was blooded in West Germany's 3-1 World Cup win in Austria and he marked his debut with two goals.

He so impressed manager Jupp Derwall that he has talked of retaining the youngster to form a three-pronged attack with Karl Heinz Rummenigge and Klaus Fischer.



Pierre Littbarski — could become a household name during the World Cup Finals.

WORLD CUP '82

FRANZ'S TARGET

FORMER West German skipper Franz Beckenbauer has set his sights on playing for his country again in the World Cup Finals.

"My best position is in defence, but it took me a long time to adjust after my return from America," says the Hamburg star.

"I want to play one more season, play well enough to be picked for Germany and then to finish my career with a run in the World Cup team."

ATTACK, ATTACK

SHOCK World Cup finalists, Peru, have a better attack than the Brazilians, claims their coach Tim.

Brazilian-born Tim says: "When I put a team into the field, it is with an attacking attitude and I shall never change. I believe that my attack of Barbadillo, La Rosa and Oblitas is the best in South America."

Peru have planned a thorough preparation to the World Cup Finals and have already fixed up 20 internationals before the big event.

They are determined to put up a good show in Spain and at least equal their performance of 1978 when they reached the second round.

Scrapbook

ONLY 21 WEEKS TO GO . . .

LEV'S JOB

LEV Yashin, one of the all-time greats of Russian football, has been appointed vice-president of the Russian Football Association.

The former Russian goalkeeper retired at the age of 41 after three World Cup Finals and 75 international appearances.

Friendly Scots

SPAIN, who are starting to fancy themselves as possible World Cup finalists next summer, have arranged a friendly with Scotland in Valencia on February 24.

CHILE BOSS KEEPS BUSY

THE national team boss of Chile, Luis Santibanez, has added the job of manager of First Division Universidad Catolica to his national duties.

Even with a new five-year commitment, he reckons he can carry on with an unchanged World Cup schedule.

BE A WINNER WITH MATCH

PICTURE PUZZLER

HERE are four players who changed clubs this season. Can you name them, who they played for last season and their new clubs?



A



B



C



D

ON

SPOT the ball and you could win one!

We're giving away TEN super leather Leada-Match footballs to the winners of this free to enter Match Weekly 'Spot the Ball' competition.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of these super prizes is to take a careful look at the action picture from this season's Ipswich v. Leeds League Cup game.

An Eric Gates header is flying into the Leeds net — but just where is the ball hidden? Is it under circle A, B, C, D or E?

When you've worked out your answer, send it to: Match Weekly 'Spot the Ball' Competition, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

The first ten correct entries pulled out of our postbag will receive a super new football (pictured above).

Entries must reach us by Friday, January 22, and the results will appear in our February 6 issue.

Who plays

where?

WHICH teams play at the following Football League grounds?

- 1 Plainmoor.
- 2 Springfield Park.
- 3 Boothferry Park.
- 4 Leeds Road.

SOLUTIONS

PICTURE PUZZLER: Pic A: Andy King (QPR to West Brom); Pic B: Stan Bowles (Orient to Middlesbrough); Pic C: Willie Young (Aston to Nott'm Forest); Pic D: Joe Bolton (Sunderland to Brentford).
MEMORY TEST: 1. Barnsley; 2. Bob Latchford; 3. Swansea; 4. Peter Shilton; 5. Luton; 6. Ian Redford; 7. Asa Hartford (from Everton); 8. Gerry Armstrong (Watford); 9. Jimmy Case (Brighton); 10. Wintarslag.
SOCCERWORD: Across: 1. Old Trafford; 7. Wim; 9. Scunthorpe; 11. Eddie; 12. Cup Final; 13. Terry; 14. Chips; 17. Richards; 19. Eagle; 22. Tommy Catron; 23. Cat; 24. Transferred.
DOWN: 2. Lock; 3. Tony; 4. Ashman; 5. Furnell; 6. Re-elect; 7. Wanderers; 8. Mike; 10. Springett; 15. Swales; 16. Freeman; 18. Cruyff; 19. Eric; 20. Carr; 21. Gore.
WHO PLAYS WHERE: 1. Torquay; 2. Wigan; 3. Hull; 4. Huddersfield; 5. Swales; 16. Freeman; 18. Cruyff; 19. Eric; 20. Carr; 21. Gore.

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must be won



SOCCERWORD

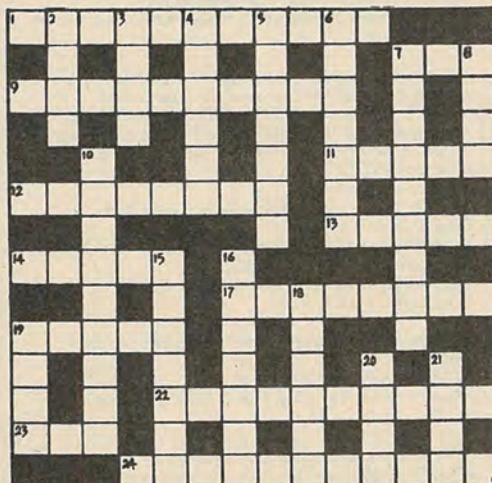
Across

1. This ground has staged three FA Cup finals (3,8)
7. ... Jansen, famous Dutch international formerly with Feyenoord but now with Ajax (3)
9. 'Cup horns' (anagram) — well ... they've never actually won a major cup (10)
11. ... Hapgood, famous old Arsenal and England defender (5)
12. There's a European one next May and a World one next July (3,5)
13. 'Keeper ... Gennoe joined Blackburn from Southampton (5)
14. Passes over an opponent's head (5)
17. This long-serving Wolves favourite has topped their scoring lists for the last four seasons (8)
19. The bird that's on the ball in the badge of Crystal Palace (5)
22. Big defender who featured for Manchester City in the 1981 FA Cup final (5,5)

23. The nickname that was given to former Chelsea 'keeper Peter Bonetti (3)
24. In many foreign countries players can only be ... during the close season (11)

Down

2. Last season Kevin ... wore five differently-numbered shirts when turning out for Fulham ... (4)
3. ... and ... Gale did the same! (4)
4. Manager who returned to 9 across in 1976 for his second spell in charge (being joined by John Duncan in 1981) (6)
5. Goalkeeper who played mainly for Arsenal, Rotherham and Plymouth and went with Bobby Saxton to Blackburn as part of his management team (7)
6. At the end of the season the bottom clubs in Division Four have to rely on others to ... them (7)
7. Defunct but famous club who were first-ever winners of



- the FA Cup (9)
8. ... Trusson, Sheffield United forward (4)
10. Ron ... was England's usual 'keeper before Gordon Banks (9)
15. 'Set wear?' (anagram) — yes, for goalkeepers! (7)
16. Goalkeeper who joined Peterborough from Birmingham this year (7)

18. The European Footballer of the Year in 1971, 1973 and 1974 (6)
19. ... Potts joined Burnley from PNE (4)
20. Defender David ... reached his 100th League appearance for Lincoln this season (4)
21. Midfielder Tommy ... joined Bury from Wigan (4)

Memory test

THE season is now approaching the half-way stage ... but what can you remember of the campaign so far? Here's 10 questions to test your memory.

- 1 Which Second Division team bundled John Bond's Manchester City out of the League Cup?
- 2 First Division newcomers Swansea beat Leeds 5-1 on the opening day of the season. Who scored a hat-trick for the Welshmen?
- 3 Manchester United striker Garry Birtles ended his year-long drought with a League goal against which club. Was it Aston Villa, Swansea or Middlesbrough?
- 4 England beat Hungary 1-0 at Wembley to qualify for the World Cup Finals in Spain. Who played in goal for England?
- 5 Who were the first team to beat QPR on their synthetic turf in a League fixture?
- 6 Who scored Rangers' winner in the Scottish League Cup Final against Dundee United?
- 7 While Manchester United completed the signing of £1.7m Bryan Robson, another player was returning to Maine Road. Who was he?
- 8 Name the Second Division player who made sure of Northern Ireland's place in the World Cup Finals with the only goal of their game against Israel?
- 9 A former Liverpool hot-shot is now enjoying life on the south coast. Who is he?
- 10 Name the Belgian team which knocked mighty Arsenal out of the UEFA Cup?

GIANT

Whistling Dixie sinks Forest as



Dixie McNeil — didn't expect to play against Nottingham Forest but he scored the killer goal.

EVERGREEN striker Dixie McNeil believes Wrexham completed their finest FA Cup hour with their shock 3-1 victory over former European Champions Nottingham Forest.

"We've beaten First Division sides before in the FA Cup but, with due respect, most of them were struggling at the time," says Dixie, who sealed Forest's fate with the third goal in a 12-minute second half salvo.

"But you can't say Forest are struggling at the moment, and there aren't many sides who win there, let alone score three goals."

The Welsh side are becoming renowned cup survivors despite their indifferent performances in the Second Division.

They have reached the Fifth Round in the past two seasons and, in 1978, they went out to Arsenal in the quarter-finals.

But 35-year-old Dixie admits, a win at Forest hadn't really crossed their minds.

"It was not a question of expecting, but hoping. We felt we could possibly get a draw because we seem to play better away from home for some unknown reason," says the much respected striker who is nearing 250 League goals.

"Forest are not noted for scoring a lot of goals and we felt that if we could keep it tight, then we had a chance to take them back to Wales."

Shattered

But a second minute goal from Forest's Mark Proctor shattered Wrexham's careful planning.

"That was a real blow," adds Dixie, "but in

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Mark Berridge, 86 Netherburn Rd, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

SWOP SHOP



Luther Blissett — twice a cup winner over Manchester United.

KILLERS

Wrexham go marching on

retrospect, it might have been a blessing in disguise because the lads fought even harder to get back into the match.

"When you are only a goal down, there is always the chance of snatching at least a draw, but we hit a purple patch in the second half with three goals in 12 minutes.

"And they were really good goals, not deflections or lucky rebounds.

"Overall, it was probably our best performance of the season although we also played well when we won 2-0 at Luton in the League Cup."

Steve Dowman and Mick Vinter scored the first two goals to soften up the First Division giants, and then big Dixie stole in with his customary cup goal to produce the killer blow.

But, as he explains, he didn't expect to play. "I had been out of action with a fractured cheekbone since the middle of November and my only competitive work-out before the

Forest tie was in training.

"So I was not expecting to be more than substitute.

"But manager Mel Sutton decided to take a gamble and gladly it paid off."

Now Wrexham could be visiting their old manager John Neal at Chelsea in the Fourth Round.

Better off

"At first we wanted a home tie but, looking at our form at the Racecourse, we are probably better off being away," he says.

"It would be nice playing at Chelsea. We always have a good game there and there's plenty of atmosphere."

Wrexham and Watford provided the sensations of FA Cup Third Round day with KO's of giants Nottingham Forest and Manchester United.

Here star strikers Dixie McNeil of Wrexham and Watford's Luther Blissett reveal the inside stories behind their triumphs and pose the question: "Could it be a Second Division club that lifts the famous trophy this year?" as the First Division giants bite the dust...



Watford want more scalps!

SCALP hunters Watford are ready to add West Ham to their growing list of First Division victims.

John Lyall's men won't be relishing their trip to Vicarage Road for the FA Cup Fourth Round tie because Watford have become the most feared giant-killers of them all in recent years.

In the last two seasons they've taken the prized scalps of five First Division teams including mighty Manchester United, Nottingham Forest and Southampton.

United — their League Cup victims at Old Trafford back in 1978-79 — knew all about Watford's cup capabilities. But it didn't stop them crashing 1-0 in this season's FA Cup to a Jan Lohman goal.

And one of the stars of that giant-killing act, Luther Blissett, reckons that his team are due a Wembley visit.

"In the past couple of seasons, we've reached the quarter-final stages of the two cup competitions three times. It would be tremendous if we could get there this season."

Wayside

And Luther believes that Watford stand their best ever chance this time as First Division clubs fall by the wayside.

"A Second Division team has a great chance of going all the way this season. It's incredible to think of the number of First Division clubs

who've been drawn together in the early rounds."

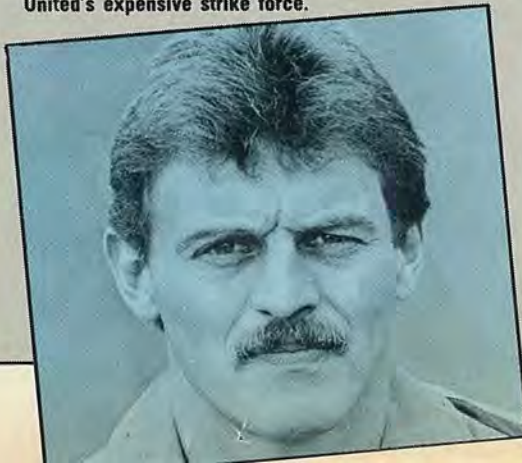
Luther, a former England Under-21 international, will be out to dent West Ham's cup hopes in the way Watford scuppered Ron Atkinson's men.

"Before the game against United, manager Graham Taylor told us it was vital that we won the individual battles. That way, it would be easier to win the match.

"I was disappointed with some of United's players. The club has a great attacking tradition, but when the players got the ball, they didn't do much with it.

"It was a pleasing performance from us because we kept up a steady flow of pressure throughout the game. Our trouble recently has been that we've tended to be a 'Jekyll and

Below: Ian Bolton — played alongside Steve Terry in the heart of the Watford defence and frustrated United's expensive strike force.



Hyde' team — good in patches and bad in others.

"Central defenders Steve Terry and Ian Bolton played United's front men, Garry Birtles and Frank Stapleton, very well. They didn't give them many chances," added Luther, who scored both goals in Watford's previous win over United.

"It was a better team performance than the last time we beat them," admitted Luther.

"Everyone was playing for each other."

The talented black striker-cum-midfield player is now looking forward to the West Ham game and settling a few old scores.

"Last season, they were one of the few teams to do the double over us. We want to put that right," he said.

"We're all delighted with the draw because at this stage, any draw is good if it's at home.

"I believe it will be a cracking match because Hammers love to go forward. They'll want to bring us down a peg or two and beat us at the first time of asking."

Respect

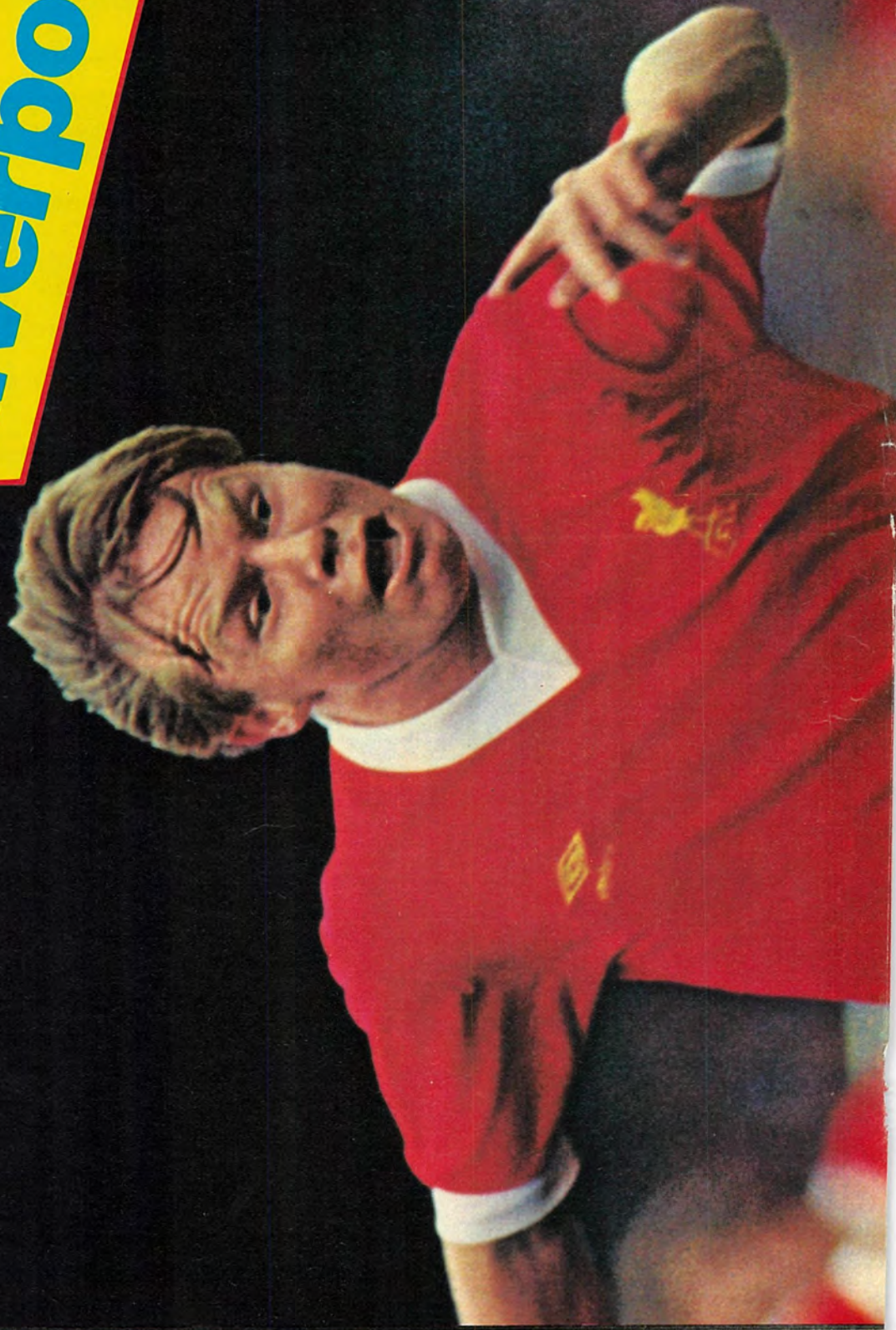
"I've always had a great respect for their striker David Cross. He's got an eye for goal and we'll have to watch him.

"They're so attack-minded that even their defenders love to come forward and have a crack at goal.

"I'm really looking forward to the game because cup-ties against teams like West Ham are fun to play in."

SAMMY LEE

Liverpool







LIVERPOOL are still the best team around!

That's my message to the critics who believe that we're on the slide and that our bubble has finally burst.

The knives came out again on Boxing Day after we were beaten 3-1 by Manchester City at Anfield.

Our keeper Bruce Grobbelaar was faulted for two or our goals but I don't want to blame him because football is a team game.

We've all cost the side games and goals this season but on the other hand we've done our part in winning games.

As I have said before in Match Weekly, I don't believe we've been playing badly as a team. We've all made individual mistakes and we've been made to pay for them.

We had many chances to tie up the game against City and could have finished 5-3 winners. I thought their 'keeper Joe Corrigan had a tremendous match.

Talking of chances, I don't think I've ever had so many scoring opportunities in one season. Sadly they all seem to have flown narrowly wide or just too high!

Manager Bob Paisley isn't happy with our performances this season and he's told us so. I can't remember a season when we've had to suffer so many rollings.

City's win was our sixth defeat at Anfield inside a year and that has put a question mark against our reputation of being invincible at home.

Our home record is something that the players are fiercely proud of and we're all

Liverpool skipper Phil Thompson. I took over from him as captain of the side for our FA Cup tie at Swansea.

STILL

keen to put together another record-breaking run.

There's no doubt that a win at Anfield was regarded by many teams as their best result of the season. Even a point was a great achievement.

Now teams are coming here believing that they can win. That's something we've got to put right.

The pitch itself has come under fire but we're not using it as an excuse. The top soil has been down too long and that's made the surface bumpy. But it's the same for the opposition.

Immediately after our defeat at Anfield we showed people how stupid they were to write us off by bouncing back to beat John Toshack's high flying Swansea 4-0 in the FA Cup.

That's just the sort of effect that criticism has on us. It goes the players up and makes us determined to prove the critics wrong.

The match itself brought me a very special honour — I was made skipper of the side in place of Phil Thompson.

It was a tremendous thrill for me to lead the lads out at The Vetch Field, although I must admit Bob Paisley's decision came right out of the blue. It was totally unexpected.

Now that we've got our Cup tie out of the way I'm concentrating on our next League game against Wolves at Anfield.

The Midland side beat us 1-0 at Molineux on

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THE BEST

And we're in with a shout *says* for the Championship **GRAEME SOUNESS**

the opening day of the season so we'll be keen to put the record straight. It will also give us an opportunity to start building up another unbeaten run at Anfield.

Wolves have got problems again this season and once more are struggling against relegation.

The match will give me an opportunity to meet up with my Scottish international team-mate Andy Gray again.

He's a player I've always rated very highly and it's a pity he's had so many problems with injuries throughout his career.

He's an aggressive player who's got more mobility and finesse than many people imagine. Wolves desperately need his talents if they are to stay up.

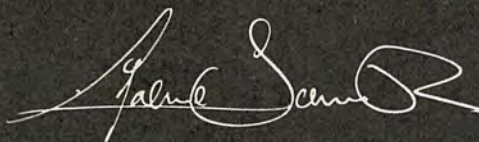
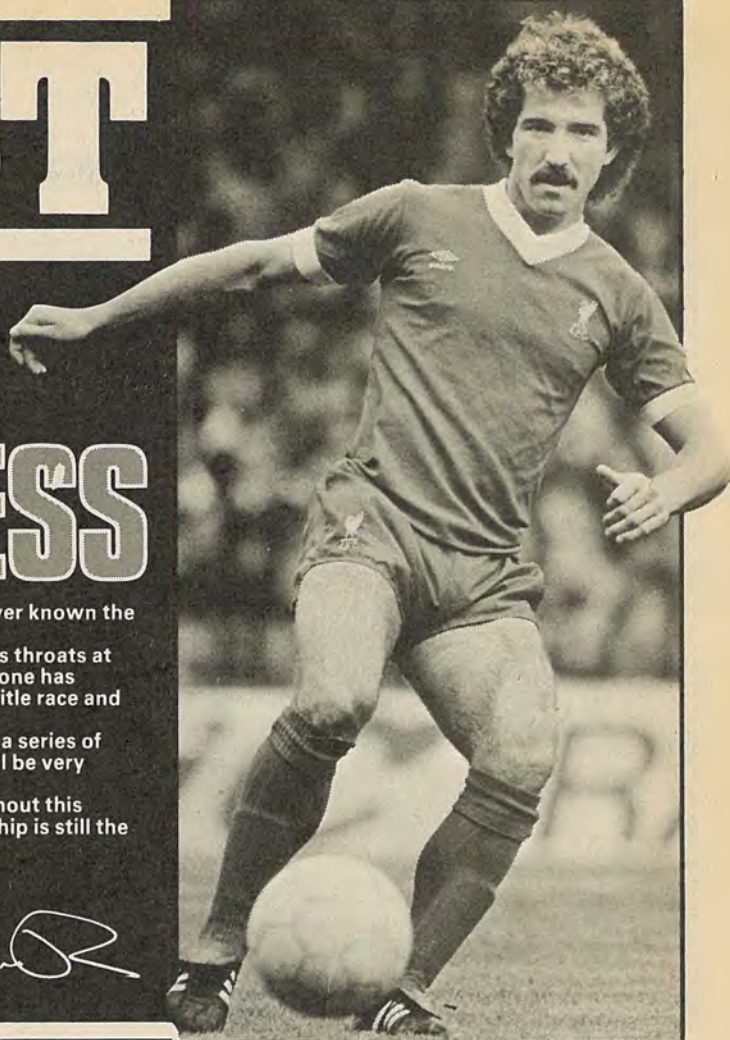
We're now at the half way stage of the season and I must admit that in my nine years

as a First Division player I've never known the title to be easier to win.

Teams are cutting each other's throats at the top of the First Division. No-one has stamped their authority on the title race and there's no clear leader.

All it needs is a team to string a series of good results together and they'll be very difficult to overhaul.

I still believe we're in with a shout this season. The League Championship is still the most important trophy to us.

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CHELSEA SELL OFF THE STARS



I'M an avid Chelsea supporter and I've supported them through thick and thin.

But it's very disappointing to see how many excellent players Chelsea have sold who are now playing leading roles with successful sides.

Ray Wilkins has masterminded Manchester United's charge to the top of the Division One table, Kenny Swain helped Aston Villa win the title last season and Eammon Bannon assisted Dundee United when they won the Scottish League Cup last season.

Perhaps if Chelsea had managed to hold on to some of this talent, then honours might have come their way . . .

Andrew Ross, Fulford, York.

Left: Ray Wilkins — disappointing that Chelsea have sold so many good players like him, says Andrew Ross.

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24 MATCH WEEKLY

Lay off Neal appeal

WHAT have London soccer fans got against Liverpool's Phil Neal. He takes some terrible stick from the supporters when he plays in the capital.

When I went to watch England's World Cup qualifier against Hungary at Wembley, the fans jeered when Phil's name was announced.

In my opinion, Phil was England's best player that night. He never puts a foot wrong in the England defence.

It's about time this anti-Neal campaign came to an end. Phil's great . . . and I would like to congratulate him on notching over 400 appearances for Liverpool. Paul Plunkett, Anfield, Liverpool.



Phil Neal — he gets some terrible stick when he plays in London and it's unjustified, says Paul Plunkett.

TERRACE TALK

Write to Terrace Talk, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8DJ. We'll pay £2 for each letter published and £10 for the 'Star Letter' of the week.

It must be Brazil

ALL the evidence suggests that Brazil will win the World Cup in Spain this summer.

I was convinced of this when I saw Flamengo, Brazil's top side, crush Liverpool, the leading side in Europe, in the recent World Club Championship match in Tokyo.

Flamengo took Liverpool apart with a mixture of power, efficiency and breathtaking skill. Liverpool were lucky to lose 3-0!

Zico looked in a class of his own and he could easily be the World Cup Finals' outstanding player. Phil Norman, Billingham, Cleveland.

BANK ON BUCHAN

I WAS shocked to see that Manchester United did not recall Martin Buchan for the game against Southampton although Buchan had fully recovered from injury.

Buchan has been one of the most consistent defenders in the First Division over the past two seasons and his influence as captain is immeasurable.

Ron Atkinson, United's manager, should play his best possible team . . . and that includes Buchan. David Wrigley, Droylesden.

REGIONAL YAWN

AS an Aldershot supporter, I must disagree with the idea of splitting Divisions Three and Four into three regional leagues.

Even though it would cut the amount clubs spend on travelling,

fans would be driven away by boredom. Who wants to see the same visiting teams time after time?

Simon Bassett, Guildford, Surrey.

We're doomed

BIRMINGHAM boss Jim Smith has doomed the club to another season of struggle.

First of all he sells defender Joe Gallagher to Midlands rivals Wolves and then he drops our best striker, Frank Worthington.

Frank is far better than Tony Evans and deserves to be in the side. He's got more skill than the former Cardiff striker and works much harder.

Stephen Harris, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands.

BEST FANS IN BRITAIN

SOCCER fans take some terrible criticism, some of it justified, but I believe Celtic supporters are the best bunch of fans in Britain.

Returning home from Celtic's European Cup-tie with Juventus in Turin, a group of fans befriended a party of handicapped children, gave them scarves and sweets, and generally raised their spirits on the arduous Channel crossing between Dieppe and Newhaven.

And Celtic have been involved in testimonials for Sammy Nelson and, more recently, Allan Hunter, of Ipswich. Both these games attracted a huge Celtic support, which received glowing praise for their behaviour.

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Perhaps Celtic fans' reputation for good behaviour can be put down to the 'family atmosphere' between the club and the support.

There are no cages at Celtic, unemployed fans watch at reduced rates and the club generally caters for fans in a special way. Hugh and Paul Jamieson, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

King Keegan!

WHAT a great ambassador for football is Kevin Keegan. As well as being the best player in England, he's also a super person.

I met Kev when he was playing football and cricket at Woking Leisure. Although he was surrounded by hundreds of people and could hardly move, he signed as many autographs as he could and remained really friendly throughout.

Kev won over hundreds of people with his personality, and he gave me a kiss before he left!

He has done more to promote English football than anyone and I hope he gets his reward this summer in the World Cup Finals in Spain.

Maxine Booth, Woking, Surrey.

Less soccer on the box!

FALLING gates can be put down to one thing . . . too much football on the telly.

Even a game like Crewe v Hartlepool will be covered by some local TV station, with the goals being broadcast.

On one midweek evening, I watched every European game involving a British team. How can you expect people to turn out to watch a Division Three match on a cold, rainy night when highlights of all the top games appear on TV the same evening?

Reduce the number of games shown on the box and the fans will return.

Andrew Thorpe, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Feast of Stevens

I HAVE compiled a team of 'Steve's' and I reckon they would be world-beaters. The team is:

Steve Sherwood (Watford), Steve Perryman (Tottenham), Steve Foster (Brighton), Steve Gattling (Brighton) Steve Whitworth (Bolton), Steve Coppell (Manchester United), Steve Williams (Southampton), Steve Mackenzie (West Brom), Steve Hunt (Coventry), Steve Archibald (Tottenham), Steve Heighway (Liverpool), Steve Palmer, Wimborne, Dorset.



West Brom's Steve Mackenzie — he's in Steve Palmer's team of 'Stevens'.

OUTRAGED!

OUTRAGED at something concerning soccer? Then write and tell us about it.

But remember, you risk the wrath of 'Match' referee who may book you or worse still send you off!

Just to soften the blow the person who gets his marching orders wins £5 and those whose names are taken get £2.

Write to 'Outraged', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton Centre, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

Bradshaw is brilliant

Sent off!
£5

I'M outraged that Ron Greenwood doesn't pick Wolves goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw for England.

Every England squad selected contains just three keepers, Peter Shilton, Ray Clemence and Joe Corrigan.

Bradshaw is a better goalie than all three of them. He always plays well for Wolves.

Mark Johnson, Chesham, Bucks.

● IT'S true. Bradshaw does play well. Wolves' defence makes sure opposing forwards give him plenty of practice! But one thing Ron Greenwood is not short of is a good goalkeeper. You're sent off.

Flash in the pan

I AM outraged by the antics of Diego Maradona of Argentina.

He expects to be paid huge sums of money yet he lacks total commitment. He will only get involved in a game for a few minutes, try a bit of flashy footwork, and then fade out completely.

Nadine Dereza, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

● THE top performers in any profession demand — and get — the top wages. You're booked.

SACK BOND

I'm outraged that Manchester City put up with John Bond as their manager.

He has bought too many poor players like Asa Hartford, Martin O'Neill and his own son, Kevin. Nicholas Emanuel, Stretford, Manchester.

● CONSIDERING that Bond took Manchester City to the FA Cup Final in his first season at Maine Road and followed up by signing Trevor Francis, he hasn't done such a bad job for the club! You're booked.

All-Ireland, all-powerful

I'M outraged that Northern Ireland and Eire don't combine to produce a United Ireland side. Then they could be a real force in World football.

Players like Liam Brady, Mark Lawrenson, David O'Leary, Pat Jennings, Frank Stapleton and Sammy McIlroy, etc. could form a powerful side.

John McNeil, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear.

● YOU'VE named a pretty good five-a-side team there, complete with substitute. But you need more than etceteras to stand a chance against the likes of Brazil and Argentina. You're booked.

World Cup wonders

I'M outraged that you know Northern Ireland will win the World Cup but you dare not say so.

Anyway, you don't print any letters from Northern Ireland. John Slevin, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

● YES we do — even when they are as silly as yours! You're booked.

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STAR GALLERY



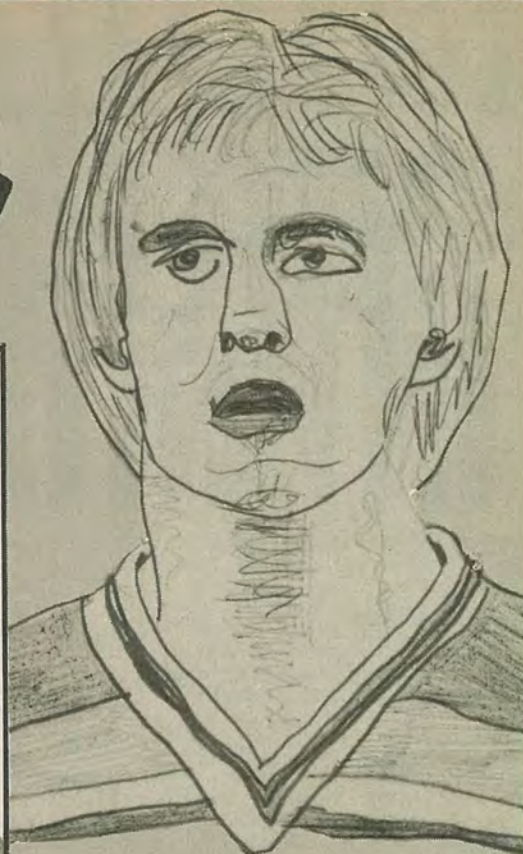
Patrick Allison (13) of Minster, Kent, sent us this picture of Pele (above) and says: "He is the greatest footballer ever."



Catherine McGarry (12) drew this picture of Stoke's Brendan O'Callaghan (left) and says: "Big 'Bren' should be in Star Gallery because he scores nearly every time with his headers."



Fourteen-year-old Alison Lerwill of Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan, believes Glenn Hoddle (above) deserves a place in Star Gallery because "he will become one of England's best players in the near future."



Above: Liverpool's Phil Neal . . . whose "power and ability allows him to win fifty-fifty balls," says David Carlaw (13) of Ramsey, Cambs.

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MW



OUCH!

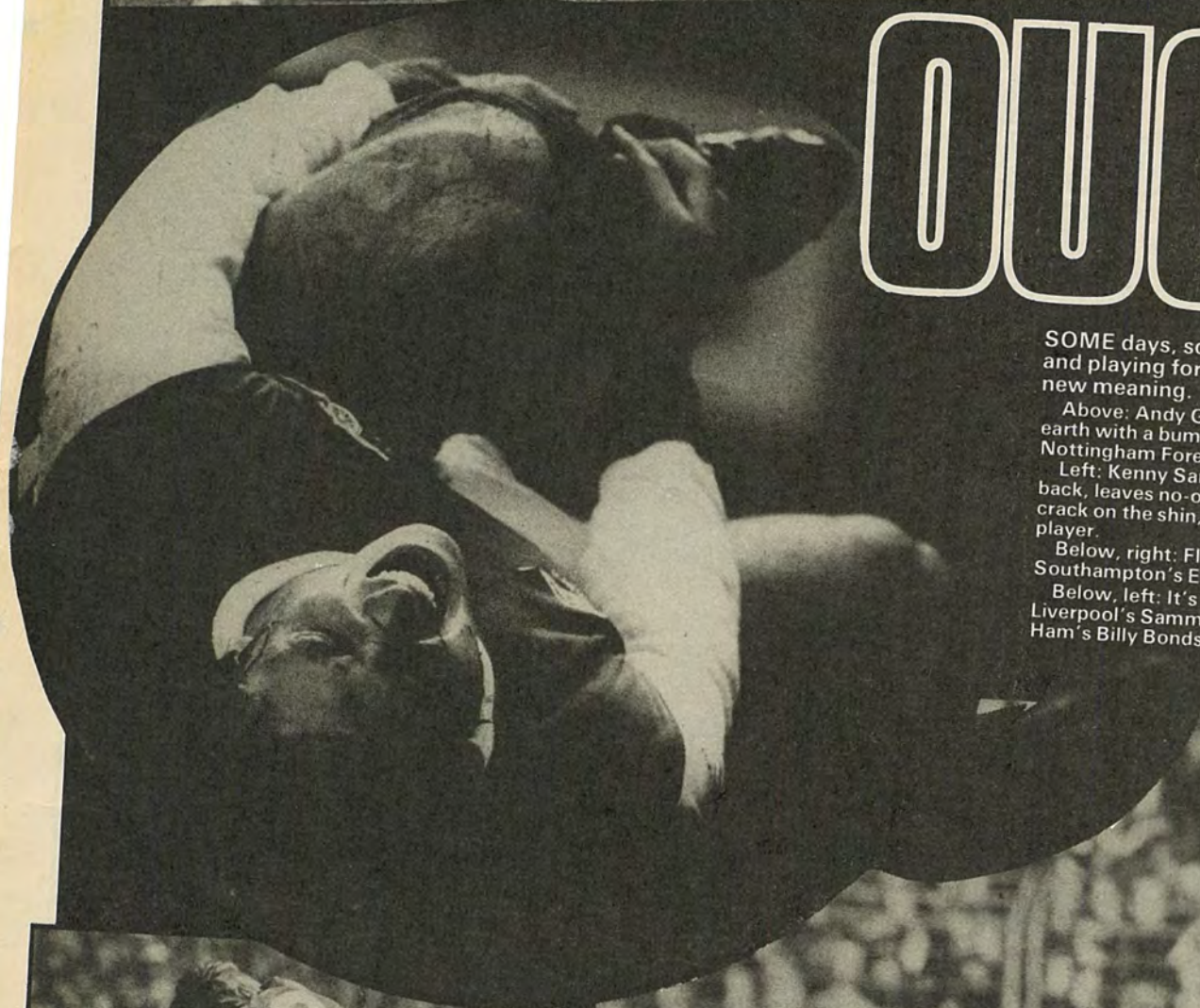
SOME days, soccer can be a real pain . . . and playing for kicks takes on an entirely new meaning.

Above: Andy Gray of Wolves comes down to earth with a bump after sprawling over the legs of Nottingham Forest defender Dave Needham.

Left: Kenny Sansom, Arsenal's England full-back, leaves no-one in doubt as to the agonies of a crack on the shin, kindly donated by an Everton player.

Below, right: Flying tonight . . . that's Southampton's England captain Kevin Keegan.

Below, left: It's an up-and-under! UP goes Liverpool's Sammy Lee as UNDER goes West Ham's Billy Bonds.



NORWICH UNION!

SPOTLIGHT on the transfer trail and the move that has made partners of two former West Midlands rivals...

IN-AND-OUT striker John Deehan plans to erase the nightmare of two years of frustration at West Brom by helping Norwich City back into the First Division.

The £175,000 striker has linked up with former Midlands rival Keith Bertschin in a new strike force that Norwich fans hope will get the Canaries singing again.

And John, who failed to carve out a regular place at The Hawthorns, believes he can form a profitable partnership with the former Birmingham forward.

"I can guarantee it won't be through lack of trying," says John, who spent a month on loan at Norwich before putting pen to paper.

"I can see our partnership blossoming. One thing about Keith is that his work rate is phenomenal and I think he could play alongside any striker.

"I shall be pulling my weight and hopefully getting a few goals to get Norwich back into the First Division because that's where I want to be."

And Keith, who is providing a temporary home for his new partner, adds: "After just four games together, it was already going well.

"John's going to make things a lot easier for me up front and I'm sure it will be a successful partnership.

"We were 'deadly rivals' at one stage when we played for different First Division clubs in the Midlands, but we always got on quite well together off the field and considering we hadn't played together before, things have gone well."

John will be keen to get among the goals to show Albion fans that he can produce the goods.

With only five goals in more than forty League appearances for Albion, he admits he probably didn't do himself justice following his transfer from Aston Villa.

"I got on well with the management and the players, but I just didn't seem to click when I was in the team," he says.

"I did not score as many goals as I would have liked, and, if as a striker you are judged by the goals you score, then I suppose I didn't do myself justice.

Regret

"My only regret during those two years is that I never managed to string together more than six or seven matches and I was played in several different positions."

A move from Albion was inevitable from the start of the season when Ronnie Allen rejoined the club as manager.

"He made it clear that I didn't fit into his plans and that I would be available as soon as he signed replacements.

"By signing the likes of Andy King, Steve Mackenzie and Clive Whitehead, it meant that I was available to go, which is what I wanted because reserve team football was no good to me."

John was so keen to leave The Hawthorns and rebuild his career that he wanted to sign for Norwich straight away without a month's loan.

MIDLANDS RIVALS LINK UP IN CITY STRIKE FORCE



Above: John Deehan — "Ronnie Allen made it clear that I didn't fit into his plans."

Right: Keith Bertschin — "I'm sure we can form a successful partnership at Norwich."

"But Norwich manager Ken Brown was keen to see me for a month and so I had to wait," he says.

"I was very impressed with the facilities and potential at Norwich and I'm sure I have made the right move even though it's down to the Second Division.

"This club is a First Division one in everything but name.

"I am desperately keen to play again in the First Division and I expect the same would apply to the rest of the team.

"The First Division is the only place to be."



Stratton on Saturday

A SCORE TO SETTLE!



Pictured above is my special guest opponent this week — Match reader Marc Carpenter.

WIN £5

HERE are Paul Stratton's selected matches for this Saturday, together with those of his special guest opponent.

There's a space for you to fill in your forecasts and a column for the actual result.

Award yourself two points for every score you get right and one point if you get the result right (i.e. home win, away win, draw), but the scoreline wrong.

Carry your points total forward each week.

REVENGE is the name of the game on Saturday.

Revenge! For Leeds 5-1 thrashing at the hands of Division One newcomers Swansea.

Revenge! For Manchester United's 2-1 defeat at Coventry.

Revenge! For Shrewsbury's 4-0 trouncing at Barnsley!

Revenge! For Norwich City's 4-1 defeat at Rotherham.

For the country's First and Second Division teams, Saturday sees the return fixtures of opening day and, for many, it means the chance to sweeten the bitter taste of beginning a new season with defeat.

Leeds travelled to Swansea's Vetch Field ground on August 29, their fans filled with new hope following the close season signings of Frank Gray from Nottingham Forest and winger Peter Barnes from West Brom.

But they were brought down to earth with a bump as the newly-promoted Welsh side coasted to a 5-1 victory — former England striker Bob Latchford firing a hat-trick and former Leeds striker Alan Curtis completing the rout.

Swansea have gone on to prove that result was no flash in the pan, but I fancy Allan Clarke's men can turn the tables on Saturday despite their inconsistency.

Baying for blood

Manchester United fans, meanwhile, will be baying for the blood of former United boss Dave Sexton who takes his young Coventry side to Old Trafford.

No-one wore a bigger smile than Dave on opening day after watching his young braves defeat Ron Atkinson's multi-million pound United outfit 2-1 at Highfield Road.

But again I smell revenge in the air as United bid to strengthen their Championship challenge.

I've predicted scorelines for ten of Saturday's matches and the challenge is beat me if you can!

My special guest opponent this week is Match reader Marc Carpenter of Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorks and you can see his predictions alongside mine in the special panel.

Points are awarded according to how accurate the forecasts are and if Marc manages to score more points than me then he wins £5!

If you would like the chance to see your predictions in print just write in, enclosing your name, age, address, home telephone number and a black and white photograph of yourself.

Address your entries to 'Stratton on Saturday', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8DJ.

BEAT PAUL'S PREDICTIONS

MATCH	MY FORECAST	GUESTS FORECAST	YOUR FORECAST	RESULT
Leeds v Swansea	2-0	2-1		
Man. United v Coventry	3-0	3-1		
Sunderland v Ipswich	1-2	1-3		
Norwich v Rother'm	3-1	2-0		
Shrewsbury v Barnsley	1-2	0-1		
Burnley v Newport	1-0	1-1		
Chester v Portsmouth	1-1	1-0		
Mansfield v Hartlepool	3-1	2-1		
Northampton v Halifax	2-0	0-0		
Dundee Utd. v Dundee	3-1	2-1		

WHO WON THIS WEEK?

POINTS SCORED

PAUL _____

YOURSELF _____

Aggregate scores carried forward to next week

PAUL _____

YOURSELF _____

FIXTURES

Friday, Jan. 15

DIVISION FOUR

Crewe v Bradford
Stockport v Tranmere

Saturday, Jan. 16

DIVISION ONE

Birmingham v Everton
Brighton v West Ham
Leeds v Swansea
Liverpool v Wolves
Man. Utd. v Coventry
Notts Co. v Aston Villa
So'ton v Nott'm F.
Stoke v Arsenal
Sunderland v Ipswich
Spurs v Middlesb'ro'
W.B.A. v Man. City

DIVISION TWO

Bolton v Chelsea
Cambridge v C. Palace
Cardiff v Oldham
Charlton v Luton
Leicester v Grimsby

Norwich v Rotherham
Orient v Derby
Q.P.R. v Wrexham
Sheff. Wed. v Blackburn
Shrewsbury v Barnsley
Watford v Newcastle

DIVISION THREE

Brentford v Bristol R.
Bristol C. v Huddsfd
Burnley v Newport
Chester v Portsmouth
Chester'ld v Millwall
Exeter v Walsall
Lincoln v Gillingham
Preston v Plymouth
Reading v Fulham
Southend v Doncaster
Wimbledon v Carlisle

DIVISION FOUR

Colchester v Bury
Darlington v Torquay
Hereford v Blackpool
Hull v Bournemouth
Mansfield v Hartlepool

Northampton v Halifax
Rochdale v Sheff. U.
Scunthorpe v Aldershot
Wigan v Peterborough
York v Port Vale

SCOTTISH

PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic v Morton
Dundee Utd. v Dundee
Hibernian v Airdrie
Partick v Aberdeen
St Mirren v Rangers

FIRST DIVISION

Dumbarton v Dunfermline
E. Stirling v Ayr
Kilmarnock v Hamilton
Motherwell v Clydebank
Queen of Sth. v Falkirk
Queen's Pk. v St Johnstone

SECOND DIVISION

Albion v Meadowbank
Alloa v Montrose
Berwick v Stranraer
Brechin v Stenhousemuir
Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
Forfar v Clyde
Stirling v E. Fife

Sunday, Jan. 17

DIVISION THREE

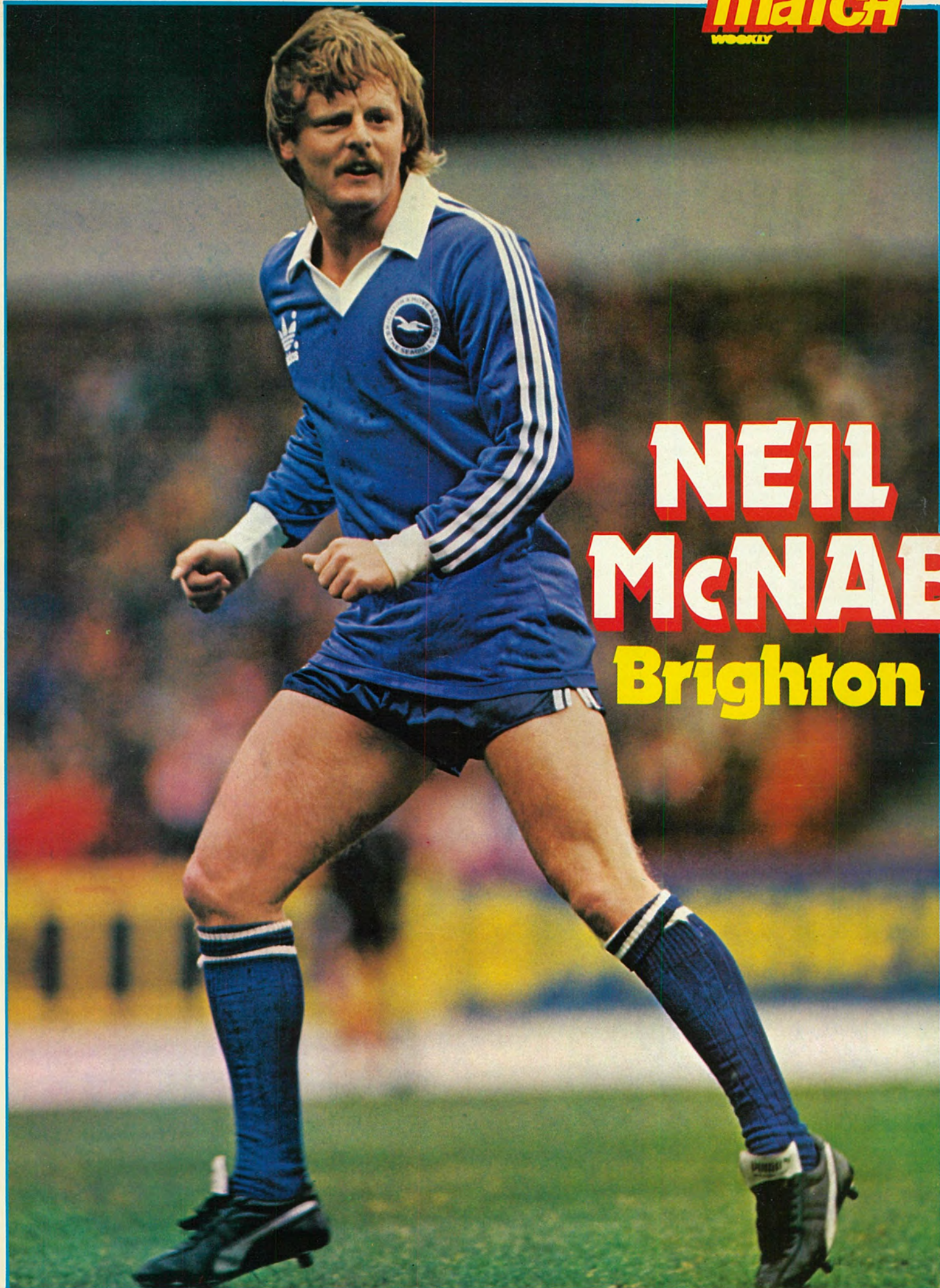
Oxford v Swindon

CHARTON *Athletic*



Back row (left to right) — Charlie Hall, Martin Robinson, Steve Gritt, Colin Powell (now with Gillingham), Les Berry, John Phillips, Nicky Johns, Peter Shaw, Billy Lansdowne, Lawrie Madden, Phil Ferns, Ken Craggs (assistant manager).

Front row — Kevin Smith, Paul Walsh, Derek Hales, Leighton Phillips, Alan Mullery (manager), Terry Naylor, Don McAllister, Phil Walker, Steve Harrison.



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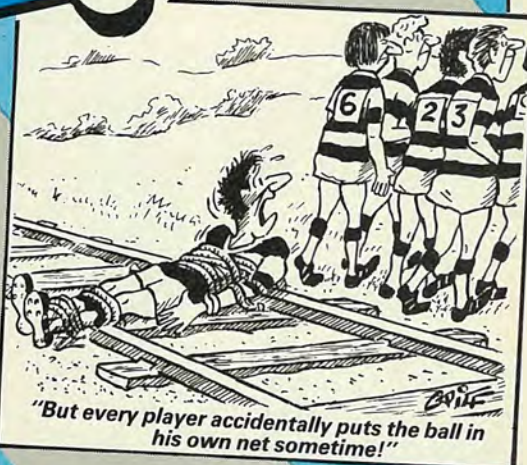
IF you know any good football jokes send them to: 'Football Funnies', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough. We'll pay £2 for each joke we publish.



JOHN Bond to Tommy Caton before the Manchester derby: "And remember, when Garry Birtles moves you must follow him."

"Why," says Caton. "Because it will be half-time." David Yaffe, Alkington, Manchester.

It's Fun Time



PUBLICAN to customer. "What's the difference between Spurs and the weather?"

Customer: "I don't know, what is the difference between Spurs and the weather?"

Publican: "The weather will improve!" Peter Thorndike (12), Hatfield Heath, Herts.

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P1M

Match Facts..... Match Facts..... Match Facts.....

FOOTBALL was hit once again at the weekend as arctic conditions led to the Pools Panel sitting for the fifth successive Saturday.

Just eight League games and one FA Cup tie survived in England, while the big Glasgow derby was the only game in Scotland.

Here, as usual, is a detailed run-down on those games that did take place, including the midweek fixtures.

Sunday, Jan. 3 Division Four

ALDERSHOT (1) 1 (Garwood 19)
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Brown 60)
Att: 2,260
Aldershot: Johnson 7, McDonald 6, Scott 6, Briley 5, Bennett 5, Jopling 5, Robinson 4, Lucas 4 (sub. Sanford), ***GARWOOD 8**, French 4, Brodie 4.
Torquay: O'Keefe 7, Jones 6, Wilson 6, Brown 7, Lawrence 6, Larmour 6, ***SERMANNI 8**, Cox 6, Butler 5 (sub. Bowker 6), Rioch 7, Young 6.
Referee: C. Maskell (Cambridge)
Match Rating: ★★

BRADFORD (2) 3 (Jackson 25, Gallagher 38, Staniforth 88)
DARLINGTON (0) 0
Att: 4,473
Bradford: Ramsbottom 7, ***PODD 8**, Watson 6, Ingham 7, Jackson 7, Wood 7, Gallagher 6, Staniforth 7, Campbell 7, McNiven 6, Ellis 7.
Darlington: Cuff 7, Kamara 7, Wilson 6, Smith 6, Skipper 7, Speedie 7, Stalker 6 (sub. Hawker 6), ***MCLEAN 8**, Wicks 6, Hamilton 6, Walsh 7.
Referee: R. Bridges (Deeside)
Match Rating: ★★

SCOTTISH Premier Division

ST MIRREN (1) 3 (McAvennie 30, 89, Scanlon 46)
MORTON (0) 1 (Houston 65)
Att: 7,078
St Mirren: Thomson 7, McCormack 7, Beckett 6, Fitzpatrick 7, Fulton 7, Copeland 7.
***McAVENNIE 8**, Stark 7, Bone 6, Abercrombie 7, Scanlon 6.
Morton: Baines 7, Hayes 6, Holmes 6, Rooney 7, McLaughlin 7, Orr 7, ***MCNEIL 8**, Docherty 6, Busby 6, Hutchison 6, Houston 7.
Referee: T. Muirhead (Stenhousemuir)
Match Rating: ★★

Monday, Jan. 4

FA Cup, Second Round, Replay

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Hamilton 43, Steven 101)
BURY (0) 1 (Johnson 54)
After Extra Time, score at 90 minutes 1-1
Att: 9,108
Burnley: Stevenson 7, Laws 6, Wharton 6, Cassidy 7, ***OVERSON 8**, Dixon 7, Dobson 7, Steven 7, Hamilton 7, Taylor 6, Young 7.
Bury: Brown 7, ***CONSTANTINE 8**, Kennedy 6, Gore 6, Hilton 7, P.7, Cruickshank 6, Madden 6, Butler 6, Johnson 6, Jakub 6, Hilton, M 5 (sub. Mullen 7).
Referee: L. Robinson (Sutton Coldfield)
Match Rating: ★★

FA Cup, Second Round

HULL (0) 2 (Marwood 75, Mutrie 81)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
Att: 4,975
Hull: Norman 6, Swann 6, McNeil 5, Roberts, D 5, Deacy 6, Booth 5, ***McCLAREN 8**, Marwood 5, Roberts, G 6, Norrie 5, Mutrie 7.
Hartlepool: Burleigh 7, Sweeney 7, Brown 6, Bainbridge 6, Linacre, P 6, Linighan 6, Linacre, J 5, Kerr 6, ***JOHNSON 8**, Hampton 5, Houchen 5.
Referee: K. Hackett (Sheffield)
Match Rating: ★★

MATCH FACTS is a unique results service, providing you with a remarkably detailed guide to League, League Cup and FA Cup games in England and Scotland.

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Match Facts also includes League tables and the extra bonus of the leading scorers in each division.

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Player ratings

10 — Out of this world
9 — Outstanding
8 — Excellent
7 — Good
6 — Adequate
5 — Off form
4 — Poor

Match ratings

★★★★★ A classic
★★★★ Good value
★★★ Satisfactory
★★ Dull
★ A waste of money

FA Cup Third Round

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Varadi 32)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Wignall 83)
Att: 16,977
Newcastle: Carr 7, Brownlie 6, Saunders 6, Trewick 6 (sub. Todd), Carney 6, Haddock 6, Shoulder 6, ***MARTIN 8**, Varadi 7, Wharton 7, Waddle 7.
Colchester: Walker 6, Cook 7, Coleman 6 (sub. Adcock 6), Leslie 7, ***WIGNALL 8**, Wright 7, Rowles 6, Bremner 7, Osborne 5, McDonough 6, Allinson 6.
Referee: T. Mills (Barnsley)
Match Rating: ★★

SCOTTISH FA Cup, First Round Replay

EAST FIFE (4) 4 (Neilson 90 secs, Caithness 19, 27, O'Brien 25)
STRANRAER (0) 1 (Harvey 83)
Att: 661

Tuesday, Jan. 5 FA Cup Third Round

BARNESLEY (0) 0
BLACKPOOL (1) 2 (Bamber 2, Morris 76)
Att: 13,429
Barnsley: Horn 6, Joyce 6, Chambers 6, ***GLAVIN 8**, Banks 7, McCarthy 7, Evans 6, Riley 6 (sub. Campbell), Aylott 7, McHale 6, Barrowclough 7.
Blackpool: Hesford 7, Simmonite 6, Pashley 6, Blair 7, Wann 7, McEwan 6, Morris 7, ***NOBLE 8**, Bamber 7, Hockaday 6, Harrison 7.
Referee: B. Martin (Notts.)
Match Rating: ★★

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Kemp 6, White, pen 65)
OLDHAM (0) 1 (Heaton, pen 85)
Att: 9,247
Gillingham: Hillyard 7, Sharpe 7, Adams 7, Bruce 7, Weatherly 7 (sub. Sittion 7), ***DUNCAN 8**, Powell 7, Tydeman 7, White 7, Kemp 7, Price 7.
Oldham: McDonnell 7, Hoolickin 7 (sub. Nuttall), Ryan 6, Keegan 6, ***CLEMENTS 8**, Fletcher 7, McDonough 7, Heaton 7, Steel 6, Palmer 6, Atkinson 6.
Referee: D. Hedges (Oxford)
Match Rating: ★★

MILLWALL (1) 1 (Neal 25)
GRIMSBY (0) 6 (Cumming 48, 76, Brolly 59, Drinkell 62, 86, Whymark 75)
Att: 5,823
Millwall: Gleasure 5, Massey 4, Roberts 5, ***CHATTERTON 6**, Allardyce 5, Slough 5, Dibble 4, Anderson 4, Bartley 4, Neal 5, West 4.
Grimsby: Batch 6, Moore, D 7, Crombie 7, ***WATERS 8**, Wigginton 7, Moore, K 8, Brolly 8, Whymark 8, Drinkell 8, Mitchell 8, Cumming 8 (sub. Ford).
Referee: K. G. Salmon (Barnet)
Match Rating: ★★

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0
ASTON VILLA (4) 6 (Richards, og 1, Shaw 9, Geddes 29, 34, 70, Cowans, pen 88)
Att: 12,312
Notts County: Leonard 5, Benjamin 4, O'Brien 5, Hunt 6, Lathinen 4 (sub. Christie 5), Richards 5, Chiedozie 6, ***MASSON 7**, Hooks 6, Goodwin 5, Mair 5.
Aston Villa: Rimmer 7, Swain 7, Gibson 7, Evans 7, Williams 7, Mortimer 7, Bremner 8, Shaw 8, Geddis 8, Cowans 7, ***MORLEY 9**.
Referee: P. Willis (County Durham)
Match Rating: ★★

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Bates 90)
PORT VALE (0) 0
Att: 7,230
Shrewsbury: Wardle 7, MacLaren 5, Johnson 6, ***CROSS 8**, Griffin 7, Keay 7, Tong 6, Dungworth 7, Atkins 6, McNally 5 (sub. Petts), Bates 7.
Port Vale: Harrison 7, Tarrt 6, Bromage 6, ***HUNTER 8**, Sproson 7, Bowles 7, Chamberlain, N 7, Higgins 7, Greenhoff 6, Armstrong 6, Chamberlain, M 7.
Referee: K. Baker (Wolverhampton)
Match Rating: ★★

FA Cup Third Round, Replay

BRIGHTON (0) 3 (Thomas 46, Case 67, McNab, pen 80)
BARNET (0) 1 (Sargent 76)
Att: 15,884
Brighton: Moseley 6, Shanks 7, Nelson 8, Grealish 7, Foster 6, Gattling 7, Case 6, Ritchie 6, Robinson 6 (sub. Ryan 7), McNab 7, ***THOMAS 9**.
Barnet: ***PHILLIPS 8**, Pittaway 7, Pearce 7, Phillips 6, Campbell 7, Townsend 7, Robinson 5 (sub. Voyce 5), Watson 6, Sargent 6, Barnes 7, Westwood 5.
Referee: T. Glasson (Salisbury)
Match Rating: ★★

Division One

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Mariner 29, 40, Brazil 69)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 (Van Mierlo 70, Broadhurst 78)
Att: 19,118
Ipswich: Cooper 7, Burley 7, McCall 7, Mills 7 (sub. O'Callaghan 6), Osman 7, Butcher 6, ***WARK 8**, Muhren 7, Mariner 7, Brazil 7, Gates 7.
Birmingham: Coton 7, Langan 6, Dennis 6, Van den Hauwe 6, Broadhurst 6, Todd 7, Dillon 6, Whatmore 6, Worthington 7, ***GEMMILL 8**, Van Mierlo 6.
Referee: A. Grey (Great Yarmouth)
Match Rating: ★★

LIVERPOOL (2) 3 (McDermott 22, Whelan 24, Dalglish 67)
WEST HAM (0) 0
Att: 28,427
Liverpool: Grobbelaar 6, Neal 7, Lawrenson 7, Thompson 7, ***WHELAN 9**, Hansen 7, Dalglish 8, Kennedy, A 7, Rush 8, McDermott 8, Souness 8.

West Ham: ***PARKES 8**, Stewart 6, Lampard 6, Bonds 6, Martin 5, Devonshire 5 (sub. Brush 6), Neighbour 6, Pearson 5, Cross 6, Brooking 6, Pike 5.
Referee: B. Newsome (Shropshire)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Three

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
PRESTON (0) 0
Att: 3,969
Chesterfield: Turner 4, Stirk 5, O'Neill 6, ***WILSON 7**, Green 6, Pollard 6, Windridge 4 (sub. Salmons 5), Henderson 5, Bonnyman 6, Kowalski 6, Walker 5.
Preston: Hodge 7, Taylor 7, McAteer 6, Bell 7, Booth 7, O'Riordan 7, Anderson 6 (sub. Buckley), Doyle 6, Elliott 7, Naughton 7, ***BRUCE 8**.
Referee: G. Bray (Hinckley)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Four

WIGAN (0) 0
TRANMERE (0) 0
Att: 4,133
Wigan: Tunks 6, McMahon 6, Glenn 6, Lloyd 6, ***METHVEN 8**, Wignall 6, Weston 5 (sub. Quinn), Barrow 5, Evans 5, Houghton 7, Bradd 7.
Tranmere: Endersby 7, Mungall 6, Burgess 6, Parry 5, Bramhall 6, Williams 6, Hamilton 6, ***HUTCHINSON 8**, Kerr 5, Brown 6, Craven 6.
Referee: P. Richardson (Lincoln)
Match Rating: ★★

Wednesday, Jan. 6 Division One

MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 1 (Stapleton 82)
EVERTON (1) 1 (Sharp 32)
Att: 40,451
Man Utd: Bailey 6, Gidman 6, Albiston 6, Wilkins 6, Moran 5, Buchan 5, Robson 6, ***McGARVEY 7**, Stapleton 6, McIlroy 6, Coppell 6.
Everton: Southall 7, Stevens 6, Ratcliffe 6, Higgins 6, Lyons 7, Irvine 7, McMahon 6, Richardson 6, ***SHARP 8**, Eastoe 6, Lodge 6.
Referee: N. Ashley (Nantwich)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Three

READING (2) 2 (Dixon 6, Webb 24)
PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Tait 32)
Att: 4,018
Reading: Fearon 6, Williams 6, Cullen 6, ***WEBB 7**, Hetzke 6, Hicks 6, Beavon 6, Earles 6, Dixon 6, Lewis 6, Donnellan 6.
Portsmouth: Knight 5, McLaughlin 5, Bryant 5, Doyle 6, Garner 6, Rollings 5, Hemmerson 5 (sub. Rafferty 5), Barnard 5, ***TAIT 7**, Bason 5, Crown 5.
Referee: C. A. Maskell (Cambridge)
Match Rating: ★★

FA Cup Third Round

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 (Chandler 64)
Att: 6,811
Peterborough: Freeman 6, Butler 6, Collins 6, ***GYNN 8**, Smith 7, Rodaway 6, Syrett 5, Kellock 6, Cooke 5, Massey 5 (sub. Cliss), Chard 6.
Bristol City: Moller 6, Stephens 6, Williams 7, Aitken 6, Boyle 6, Nicholls 7, Tainton 6, Mann 6, ***CHANDLER 8**, Harford 7, Musker 6.
Referee: B. Stephens (Stonehouse)
Match Rating: ★★

Alan Ball

DUE to the death of his father, Alan Ball will not be continuing his life story in this week's issue or in our January 23 issue. The series will be resumed in our January 30 issue.

Match Facts..... Match Facts..... Match Facts.....

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Stewart 50)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Showers 15)
Att: 3,781

Scunthorpe: Neenan 6, Davy 6, Pilling 6,
Keeley 7, Dall 6, Oates 6, Telfer 5, O'Berg 6,
Cowling 7, Moss 7, ★STEWART 8.
Hereford: Brand 6, Price 7, Sullivan 6, Hicks 6,
Dobson 6, McGrellis 6, Harvey 7, ★LAIDLAW
8, Phillips 6 (sub. Lane), Showers 7, White 6.
Referee: G. Naphine (Leicester)
Match Rating: ★★

Saturday, Jan. 9

Division One

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Francis 62)
STOKE (1) 1 (O'Callaghan 34)
Att: 31,941
Man City: Corrigan 7, Ryan 6, McDonald 6,
Reid 6, Bond 6, Caton 7, O'Neill 6, Reeves 6,
★FRANCIS 9, Hartford 7, Hutchison 6.
Stoke: ★FOX 8, Evans 7, Kirk 6, Dodd 6,
Watson 6, Doyle 7, Lumsden 7, O'Callaghan 6,
Chapman 6, Bracewell 6, Johnson 6.
Referee: G. Owen (Anglesey)
Match Rating: ★★

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (0) 2 (Ward 61,
Wallace 68)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Worthington 73)
Att: 15,906
Nott'm Forest: Shilton 7, Anderson 7, Gray 7,
Gunn 6, Young 7, Walsh 6 (sub. Bowyer),
McGovern 7, Wallace 6, ★WARD 8, Proctor 7,
Robertson 7.
Birmingham: ★COTON 8, Langan 6, Brocken
6, Van den Hauwe 6, Broadhurst 7, Todd 7,
Dillon 6, Whatmore 6, Worthington 7, Gemmill
6, Van Mierlo 6.
Referee: R. A. Banks (Manchester)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Two

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Waters 85)
ORIENT (1) 2 (Godfrey 18, Moores 58)
Att: 6,877
Grimsby: Batch 7, Moore, D.7, Crombie 6,
Waters 6, Wigginton 6, Moore, K.7, Broly 5
(sub. Kilmore 5), ★WHYMARK 8, Ford 7,
Mitchell 6, Cumming 6.
Orient: Day 7, Foster 7, Hughton 7, ★TAYLOR
8, Gray 7, Osgood 7, Godfrey 7, Margerrison 6,
Moores 6, Silkman 7, Fisher 6.
Referee: A. Robinson (Manchester)
Match Rating: ★★

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Palmer 65)
WATFORD (0) 1 (Jenkins 69)
Att: 7,409
Oldham: McDonnell 6, Edwards 6, Ryan 6,
★KEEGAN 8, Clements 7, Futcher 7,
McDonough 6, Heaton 7, Steel 6, Palmer 6,
Atkinson 6.
Watford: Sherwood 6, Rice 6, Pritchett 6, Taylor
6, ★TERRY 8, Bolton 6, Callaghan 7, Blissett 7,
Jenkins 6, Barnes 7, Lohman 6 (sub. Armstrong
6).
Referee: J. M. Key (Rotherham)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Three

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2 (Cowling 60, Brown 87)
OXFORD (0) 0
Att: 7,070
Huddersfield: Taylor 7, ★BROWN 8, Burke 7,
Stanton 6, Sutton 7, Hanvey 7, Lillis 7, Kennedy
7, Fletcher 6, Hotte 7, Cowling 7.
Oxford: ★BURTON 8, Doyle 6, Fogg 7, Jeffrey
7, Briggs 6, Shotton 6, Berry 6, Foley 6 (sub.
Wright 6), Cassells 6, Thomas 7, Smithers 6.
Referee: G. Tyson (Spennymoor)
Match Rating: ★★

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Hodges 73)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Young 47)
Att: 5,065
Plymouth: Crudington 6, Nisbet 6, Uzzell 7,
Harrison 6, Phillips-Masters 6, ★COOPER
8, Hodges 7, Cook 5, Sims 5, Randall 6, Rogers
7.
Burnley: ★STEVENSON 8, Laws 7, Wharton
5, Dixon 6, Overson 7, Dobson 6, Steven 6,
Cassidy 5, Hamilton 7, Taylor 6, Young 6.
Referee: R. Milford (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Four

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 (Morris 50, 83)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0
Att: 4,136
Blackpool: Hesford 7, ★SIMMONITE 9,
Pashley 7, Blair 6, Wann 7, McEwan 6 (sub.
Deary 6), Morris 7, Noble 6, Bamber 8,
Hockaday 5, Harrison 5.
Scunthorpe: ★NEENAN 9, Davy 7 (sub.
Stoke 6), Pilling 6, Keeley 6, Dall 6, Oates 6,
Telfer 5, Duffy 6, Cowling 5, Moss 7, Stewart 6.
Referee: D. Hutchinson (Harrogate)
Match Rating: ★★

BRADFORD (0) 1 (Staniforth 84)
HULL (1) 1 (Roberts, G 17)
Att: 5,183
Bradford: Ramsbottom 6, Podd 7, Watson 6,
Ingham 6, Jackson 6, ★WOOD 8, Gallagher 7,
Staniforth 7, Campbell 7, McNiven 6, Ellis 6.
Hull: ★NORMAN 8, McNeil 6, Booth 7,
Roberts, D.7, Deacy 6, Roberts, G.6, Marwood 7,
McClaren 6, Norrie 6, Mutrie 6, Swann 6.
Referee: K. Redfern (Whitley Bay)
Match Rating: ★★

FA Cup Second Round

CARLISLE (0) 1 (Lee 79)
BISHOP AUCKLAND (0) 0
Att: 4,536
Played at Worthington
Carlisle: Swinburne 7, Parker 6, Haigh 6,
Beardsley 7, Ashurst 7, Larkin 6, Crabbe 7,
★ROBSON 8, Lee 7, Bannion 7, Staniforth 7.
Bishop Auckland: ★OWERS 8, Newton, M.7,
Rutherford 6, Gibbon 7, Hills 7, Natrass 6,
Parnaby 6, Richardson 7, Foster 6 (sub.
Collingwood 6), Newton, D.7, Cross 7.
Referee: K. Walmsley (Blackpool)
Match Rating: ★★

SCOTTISH

Premier Division

RANGERS (0) 1 (Bett, pen 72)
CELTIC (0) 0
Att: 42,000
Rangers: Stewart 7, Jardine 7, Dawson 7,
★STEVENS 9, Jackson 8, Bett 8, Cooper 7
(sub. McAdam), Russell 6, Johnstone 6, Dalziel
7, MacDonald 7.
Celtic: Bonner 7, McGrain 7, Reid 6, Aitken 7,
McAdam 7, MacLeod 6, Provan 6 (sub.
McGarvey), Conroy 6 (sub. Moyes), Nicholas 7,
★BURNS 8, McCluskey 6.
Referee: P. McGinley (Balfour)
Match Rating: ★★

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	17	7	1	1	18	10	4	1	3	13	11	35
Man. City	21	6	4	2	20	10	4	1	4	10	13	35
Manchester U	19	6	3	1	15	5	3	3	3	14	11	33
Southampton	19	8	0	2	25	12	2	3	4	16	13	33
Swansea	20	7	2	1	18	7	3	1	6	13	24	33
Nott'm-For.	19	6	2	2	13	9	3	3	3	12	15	32
Tottenham	17	4	0	5	14	13	5	2	1	12	6	29
Everton	20	7	1	2	19	10	1	4	5	16	29	29
Liverpool	18	4	3	3	16	10	3	3	1	11	9	27
Brighton	19	3	5	2	17	13	3	4	2	7	6	27
Arsenal	16	4	2	1	5	2	4	1	4	10	10	27
West Ham	17	4	3	1	19	13	2	5	2	14	12	26
West Brom.	18	3	4	2	12	7	3	2	4	11	12	24
Aston Villa	19	2	3	3	9	10	3	4	4	14	13	22
Coventry	20	5	2	3	19	11	1	2	7	10	21	22
Stoke	19	4	5	0	14	12	2	3	5	10	17	21
Leeds	18	4	5	0	13	6	1	0	8	5	26	20
Wolves	18	4	2	3	7	1	2	6	5	18	19	19
Birmingham	18	4	3	3	19	10	3	7	7	15	18	19
Notts. C.	17	3	4	1	13	12	1	1	1	11	19	17
Sunderland	19	1	2	6	8	17	2	3	5	10	16	14
Middlesbrough	18	2	3	4	10	15	0	3	6	15	12	12

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	19	7	0	2	24	10	7	2	1	20	10	44
Oldham	22	6	6	1	20	13	4	2	3	13	11	38
Watford	19	5	3	1	16	8	5	2	3	13	13	35
QPR	20	7	2	2	21	5	3	1	5	12	14	33
Chelsea	20	5	3	2	16	12	4	2	4	12	15	32
Blackburn	21	4	2	3	8	5	4	5	3	17	15	31
Barnsley	19	7	1	1	17	4	2	2	6	13	17	30
Sheffield W.	18	5	2	2	14	12	4	1	4	8	10	30
Leicester	19	3	4	2	10	7	3	4	3	15	12	26
Charlton	21	6	1	3	19	13	1	4	6	9	20	26
Norwich	20	5	3	2	14	10	2	1	7	8	20	25
Newcastle	18	6	2	1	15	5	1	1	7	8	14	24
Cardiff	19	5	1	4	13	15	4	2	5	9	14	24
Crystal P.	17	6	0	3	12	7	1	2	5	2	7	23
Shrewsbury	18	5	2	2	15	10	1	3	5	4	14	23
Derby	18	4	3	2	14	11	2	1	6	9	19	22
Rotherham	17	8	1	2	20	9	0	2	6	5	16	21
Cambridge	18	5	0	4	15	11	2	0	7	10	18	21
Orient	20	3	3	4	13	15	4	2	5	7	15	21
Bolton	20	5	3	5	14	15	1	7	3	14	20	20
Wrexham	18	3	0	6	9	14	2	3	4	11	12	18
Grimsby	17	1	3	4	9	12	3	2	4	9	17	17

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesham	19	5	3	2	14	8	5	2	2	13	5	35
Carlisle	19	7	1	1	18	9	4	1	5	10	13	35
Walsall	18	6	1	2	17	7	3	4	2	8	6	32
Fulham	19	5	3	1	16	8	4	2	4	15	16	32
Southend	19	6	1	3	13	8	4	1	4	12	11	32
Brentford	20	2	3	5	5	7	7	1	2	17	9	31
Reading	20	5	2	3	13	15	4	2	4	12	14	31
Gillingham	19	5	3	1	19	15	4	1	4	10	13	30
Huddersfield	20	5	3	2	15	9	3	2	5	11	13	29
Bristol R.	22	5	2	4	16	16	3	3	5	11	15	29
Millwall	19	4	1	5	13	12	4	3	2	13	10	28
Doncaster	18	6	1	2	15	6	2	3	4	9	15	28
Oxford	19	4	2	3	10	7	4	2	4	14	15	28
Plymouth	21	5	3	3	13	9	2	3	5	14	17	27
Newport	20	5	1	4	22	23	2	4	4	13	19	26
Exeter	20	5	1	4	22	23	2	4	4	13	19	26
Lincoln	18	3	3	3	14	10	3	2	4	13	14	23
Portsmouth	20	4	4	2	12	8	1	4	5	9	15	23
Burnley	19	3	4	2	11	11	2	4	4	13	16	23
Swindon	20	3	3	4	12	17	3	5	9	15	22	22
Bristol C.	20	3	3	4	12	14	2	3	5	7	12	21
Chesham	19	0	6	3	6	11	4	1	5	8	13	19
Preston	19	2	4	3	6	8	1	3	6	9	19	16
Wimbledon	19	3	1	5	11	16	1	3	6	11	21	16

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford ...	19	8	2	1	25	10	5	1	2	17	10	42
Colchester ...	19	7	1	1	26	6	1	3	18	12	41	
Sheffield U ...	19	7	3	0	22	7	5	2	2	13	8	41
Bournemouth ...	20	5	5	0	13	5	6	2	2	12	7	40
Wigan ...	20	7	2	1	15	6	3	5	2	14	12	37
Bury ...	18	0	1	20	9	3	3	3	13	14	36	
Peterboro ...	18	8	0	1	24	5	3	3	3	8	11	36
Port Vale ...	19	5	2	2	12	9	4	3	3	12	11	32
Blackpool ...	19	6	1	2	24	10	2	4	4	15	16	29
Torquay ...	21	5	3	3	16	12	3	2	5	9	11	29
Stockport ...	18	7	0	2	20	7	0	3	6	4	15	24
Hartlepool ...	18	4	2	3	14	13	2	2	5	13	15	19
Aldershot ...	19	4	2	4	15	13	2	2	5	10	22	22
Hull ...	19	4	1	4	12	12	1	4	5	18	21	21
Darlington ...	19	3	4	2	11	11	1	4	5	6	14	20
Hereford ...	18	1	6	2	10	11	2	4	3	14	19	19
Tranmere ...	19	1	5	3	6	10	3	2	5	10	15	19
York ...	18	1	3	5	13	20	1	4	12	16	18	18
Reckless ...	18	3	4	2	10	7	1	2	6	18	18	18
Manfield ...	19	3	3	4	18	18	1	2	6	7	17	17
Halifax ...	19	2	3	4	8	12	1	4	5	11	22	16
Scunthorpe ...	19	2	4	3	12	16	1	1	8	5	19	14
Crews ...	18	2	1	6	9	12	2	0	7	7	32	13
Northampton ...	19	2	3	5	11	13	0	2	7	9	28	11

SCOTTISH

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	18	5	2	0	18	9	8	1	2	16	7	25
St. Mirren	16	5	2	2	16	8	3	2	2	10	11	20
Rangers	18	4	3	2	14	10	3	1	2	12	11	20
Dundee U	14	6	1	1	11	9	1	3	2	7	7	18
Aberdeen	15	4	2	1	9	6	3	2	3	12	10	18
Hibernian	17	5	4	1	16	6	0	2	5	3	9	16
Morton	16	5	1	1	10	4	0	2	7	6	23	13
Dundee	18	4	1	3	18	13	1	0	9	10	27	11
Airdrie	16	3	2	3	16	10	0	3	5	6	21	11
Partick	16	1	2	4	5	10	1	2	6	7	15	10

European Championship draw ... European Championship draw

The draw for the qualifying groups leading up to the 1984 European Championship Finals was made in Paris last week. Here Match brings you a complete guide to that draw and takes a look at the chances of the home countries ...

England's Ray Wilkins (second right) lobs the ball into the net for England's first goal in the 1980 European Championship Finals in Italy. Belgium came back to draw the game 1-1 and went on to reach the Final while England petered out.

RIVALS AGAIN!

ENGLAND face two more epic battles with World Cup qualifying rivals Hungary in their bid to reach the 1984 European Championship Finals in France.

They are drawn together in Group Three along with lesser nations Greece, Denmark and Luxembourg.

On paper, it looks like a straight fight between England and Hungary for the one place available for the final showdown.

Although England had to be content with second place behind Hungary in their World Cup group, at least they had the satisfaction of completing the double over the 'Mighty Magyars'.

With all five British Isles' representatives drawn in different groups, there is a good chance of more than one 'home' team reaching the Quarter-Finals for the first time.

Scotland's main threat in Group One will come from Belgium, surprise runners-up to West Germany in the last European Championships.

Wales, the only qualifiers in 1976, have Yugoslavia as their major concern in Group Four.

And it was the Yugoslavs who ended Welsh hopes that year in the Quarter-Finals.

The Irish representatives have the tougher task.

Northern Ireland have the holders, West Germany, in their section, along with Austria who are also one of the stronger European nations.

Eire face another confrontation with World Cup group rivals Holland in the seventh section along with the fast-improving Spain.

England's best-ever placing in the Championships was third in 1968 when the Finals were first played in Italy.

It was staged in Italy again last time, when England finished third in their group, behind Belgium and the hosts.

Right: The victorious West German team celebrate their 2-1 victory over Belgium in the Final of the European Championships in Rome in 1980. Both goals came from Horst Hrubesch (third right, back row).

Considering the acute embarrassment England suffered against the so-called weak sides Norway and Switzerland in the World Cup, there will be no underestimating Denmark, Greece and Luxembourg.

Denmark were in England's qualifying group last time along with both Irish teams, and they proved a tough nut to crack.

England scrambled a 4-3 victory in Copenhagen, Kevin Keegan scoring twice, and the Southampton forward grabbed the only goal in the Wembley return.

Scotland will be hoping for a better show this time. In the 1980 Championships, they finished fourth of five teams in a group won by Belgium, and the sides clash again.

The Belgians completed the double over the Scots with West Ham's new signing Francois Van der Elst scoring twice in the 3-1 win at Hampden and in the 2-0 victory in Brussels.

Northern Ireland, fresh from their success in reaching the World Cup Finals, have not been blessed with any luck.

They face in-form West Germany who are bidding for a third European Championship, and Austria, who finished second to the powerful Germans in their World Cup group.

The draw

Group 1
Belgium
East Germany
SCOTLAND
Switzerland
Group 2
Poland
Russia
Portugal
Finland
Group 3
ENGLAND
Hungary
Greece
Denmark
Luxembourg

Group 4
Yugoslavia
WALES
Bulgaria
Norway
Group 5
Italy
Czechoslovakia
Rumania
Sweden
Cyprus
Group 6
West Germany
Austria
N. IRELAND
Turkey
Albania
Group 7
Spain
Holland
EIRE
Iceland
Malta

Winners of each group qualify for the 1984 Finals in France, who automatically take their place in the last eight as hosts.



KEVIN TAYLOR

SHEFFIELD WED

FULL NAME: Kevin Taylor.
 BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Wakefield/January 22, 1961.
 HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5ft 8ins/11st.
 MARRIED: No.
 CAR: Ford Escort.
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: None.
 TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None.
 CLUB NICKNAME: 'Ticker'.
 WORST EVER INJURY: Damaged ankle, two seasons ago.
 FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: Glenn Hoddle, great skill on the ball.
 FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Barnsley.
 FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Franz Beckenbauer, superb distribution and vision.
 BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: Shilton, Wilson, Moore, J Charlton, Sansom, Ball, Peters, Hoddle, Keegan, Greaves (England), Best (N. Ireland).
 ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: Zoff (Italy), Kaltz, Beckenbauer (W. Germany), Moore, Sansom, Cruyff (Holland), Maradona (Argentina), Hoddle, Best, Pele, Zico (Brazil).
 FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Goodison Park.
 BEST GOAL SCORED: Against Barnsley this season in 2-2 draw.
 BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: Glenn Hoddle's volley against Manchester United last season.
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The one against Exeter in 1979 which brought Wednesday promotion from Division Three.
 OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Every game I play.
 BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Wednesday losing out on promotion to First Division last season.
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, golf, pool.
 MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Driving, eating out.
 MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: People who smoke.
 FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Crossroads.
 TV SHOW YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: Coronation Street.
 FAVOURITE READING: Football magazines.
 FAVOURITE POP STAR: Sting (Police).
 FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak.
 FAVOURITE DRINK: Lager.
 BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Spain.
 FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Charles Bronson, Susan George.
 BEST FILM SEEN IN PAST YEAR: Superman II.
 BEST FRIEND: I hope I have a few.
 BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Ken Knighton and my family.
 WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: Nothing.
 SUPERSTITIONS: Always go onto pitch half-an-hour before kick-off.
 PRE-MATCH MEAL: Ham omelette and beans.
 PERSONAL AMBITION: To enjoy life to the full.
 PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play at the highest level.
 PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: John Pearson, Sheffield Wednesday.
 WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET: George Best.
 ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Work hard.



Kevin Taylor

Accidental!

MAKES SAINTS SUFFER

LEICESTER'S FA Cup hero Alan Young had a disastrous build-up to his glamour Third Round tie against Southampton . . . and he was delighted!

Two-goal Alan's catalogue of misfortune reads like an episode out of the comedy series 'Some Mother's Do 'Ave, 'Em'.

On a morning of misery he:

- Was woken up at 3am.
- Smashed the family iron
- Broke one of the household's best china cups.
- Couldn't start his car.
- Ran out of petrol on the way to the ground.

Despite a build-up that would have had many people wishing they'd stayed in bed all day, the Scottish striker wasn't at all concerned about his bad luck.

He explained: 'The last time I had that sort of preparation for a game, I played a blinder for Oldham.

"On that occasion, I collided with a tray full of teacups and ricked my back when I fell on the dressing room floor.

"I told a friend as we drove into Leicester that I fancied myself for a couple of goals and that's how it turned out," said Alan, who was playing only his second game after a two month lay-off following a cartilage operation.

And Alan's first goal in their shock 3-1 win



Match writer Anthony Hawkswell talks to Leicester likely lad Alan Young who reveals the amazing chain of events that led up to his match-winning performance in the FA Cup . . .

over First Division 'Saints' came with his first touch of the ball in the 18th minute when he re-directed an Andy Peake shot into the net.

"I hadn't done a thing before I scored," he admitted.

The second goal was also set up by England youth international Andy when he beat David Armstrong near the left corner flag to flight a perfect near post cross.

"The header gave me a lot of pleasure. I've watched it time and again on the video. I was at the far post when Andy got the ball but instinct drove me inside.

"That was the important goal because it gave Southampton so much to do," said Alan.

And although England skipper Kevin Keegan pinched a goal just before half-time, Jock Wallace's young lads kept their heads and restored the two-goal margin through Gary Lineker in the 83rd minute.

Seconds before young Gary's goal, Alan was replaced by fellow Scottish striker Jim Melrose.

"I was absolutely tired out," said Alan.

"After such a long lay-off, I wasn't as fit as the rest of the lads so I was delighted when Gary's tremendous running was rewarded with a goal."

But Alan couldn't join in the after-match celebrations because he has to rush to a local hospital and visit his 21-month-old son Jordan, who is suffering from a skin disease.

"After the game, many people thought we'd pulled off a big giant-killing act, but I didn't see it that way. I never thought of us as underdogs. I always knew we were in with a chance," said Alan, who joined Leicester from Oldham in 1979.

With so many top flight teams out of the Cup already, Alan believes that this could be the year of the Second Division clubs.

"Although promotion is our priority, I've got a feeling that Leicester will do well in this year's FA Cup.

Left: Gary Lineker scored Leicester's third goal.

Alan



Scottish striker Alan Young had a disastrous preparation for the Cup game against Southampton.

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NEXT WEEK

First in Match Weekly!



Kevin Keegan on the World Cup draw

The World Cup draw takes place in
Madrid on January 16. With England,
Scotland and N. Ireland all involved,
Match Weekly is extending its
deadlines to bring you the crucial
news.

Read the views of match columnists
Kevin Keegan and Graeme Souness,
plus other top players, in our
up-to-the-minute special report.

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team groups
STEVE COPPELL

TONY GALVIN

DON MASSON

AND A CYRILLE

REGIS GOLDEN GOAL

On the
FA Cup
trail . . .

We follow
DONCASTER
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fourth round

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Halifax goalkeeper Lee Smelt (left) explains why he had to step . . .

Out of Shilton's shadow



Peter Shilton — Lee was understudy to the England joint number one goalkeeper at the City Ground.

YOUNG Lee Smelt has had the rich benefit of being a shadow to one of the world's greatest goalkeepers in one of the most respected soccer institutions in Europe.

That's quite a notable recommendation for a 23-year-old plucked from non-League obscurity by Nottingham Forest in the summer of last year as cover for England's Peter Shilton.

It was even more remarkable from the point of view that the former postal worker had been rejected by Colchester as a youngster and conceded six goals against Forest in a friendly a few weeks before his dream move to the then home of the European Champions.

Understudy

But those glamour days of being understudy to the England star must seem a million miles away as he continues his own bid for stardom from the depths of the Fourth Division with Halifax Town.

Rather than stay at Forest and battle with Steve Sutton for the number two berth to a goalkeeper who appears to be almost indestructible, Lee has decided to make his own way to the top from the League's basement area.

Ironically, he played against Halifax earlier in the season while on loan to Peterborough but, after five matches, a transfer deal collapsed and it was back to the City Ground.

Then Halifax stepped in with a loan move which has since become permanent. Lee had feared he might turn into some kind of

Focus on Divisions Three and Four with Melvyn Beck

footballing yo-yo if he didn't weigh anchor. "I needed to settle down somewhere if I was going to make something of my career," says Lee who had always wanted a chance in the Football League.

"I'm hoping that Halifax will prove a stepping stone for me in my bid to climb up the Football League ladder.

"I've got more chance of getting noticed playing in the first team at Halifax than in the reserves at Forest, and that was the reason why I decided to move.

"With Peter around at Forest, there was obviously not a lot of chance of first team football, and there was also Steve Sutton battling with me as well."

But Lee did make one First Division appearance during his one season with Forest. He played in a 2-1 defeat by West Brom in March: "That was a tremendous moment for me even though we lost," he says.

"It's the ambition of every player to appear in the First Division."

Grounding

But training with a world class goalkeeper like Peter Shilton proved an ideal grounding for Lee.

"One can't help learning different aspects of goalkeeping from Peter," adds Lee.

"He offered me plenty of advice about different things, but I've not attempted to model myself on him.

"Every goalkeeper has his own style and

Peter wouldn't have wanted me to copy him anyway."

Having been rejected by Colchester, Lee was virtually resigned to spending the rest of his footballing life in non-League football.

"So you can imagine what a shock it was when Forest wanted to sign me from Gravesend — particularly as I had let in six against them a few months earlier," says Lee.

Desperate

"I was in a bit of a rut at the time and I was also desperate for a chance in professional football, so it was an easy decision to make.

"Brian Clough and Peter Taylor made me very welcome at Forest and I obviously owe them everything for giving me a chance in the Football League.

"Having been involved with such a big club, I'm now eager to fight my way back to the top.

"That's why I have had no hesitation in joining Halifax because at least I can prove to myself whether I am a League goalkeeper.

"If I fail, then at least I will have the satisfaction of knowing that I have had the opportunity, which is more than a lot of people get."

So one day, we might see the teacher and the pupil on the opposite ends of the park in the First Division . . .

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